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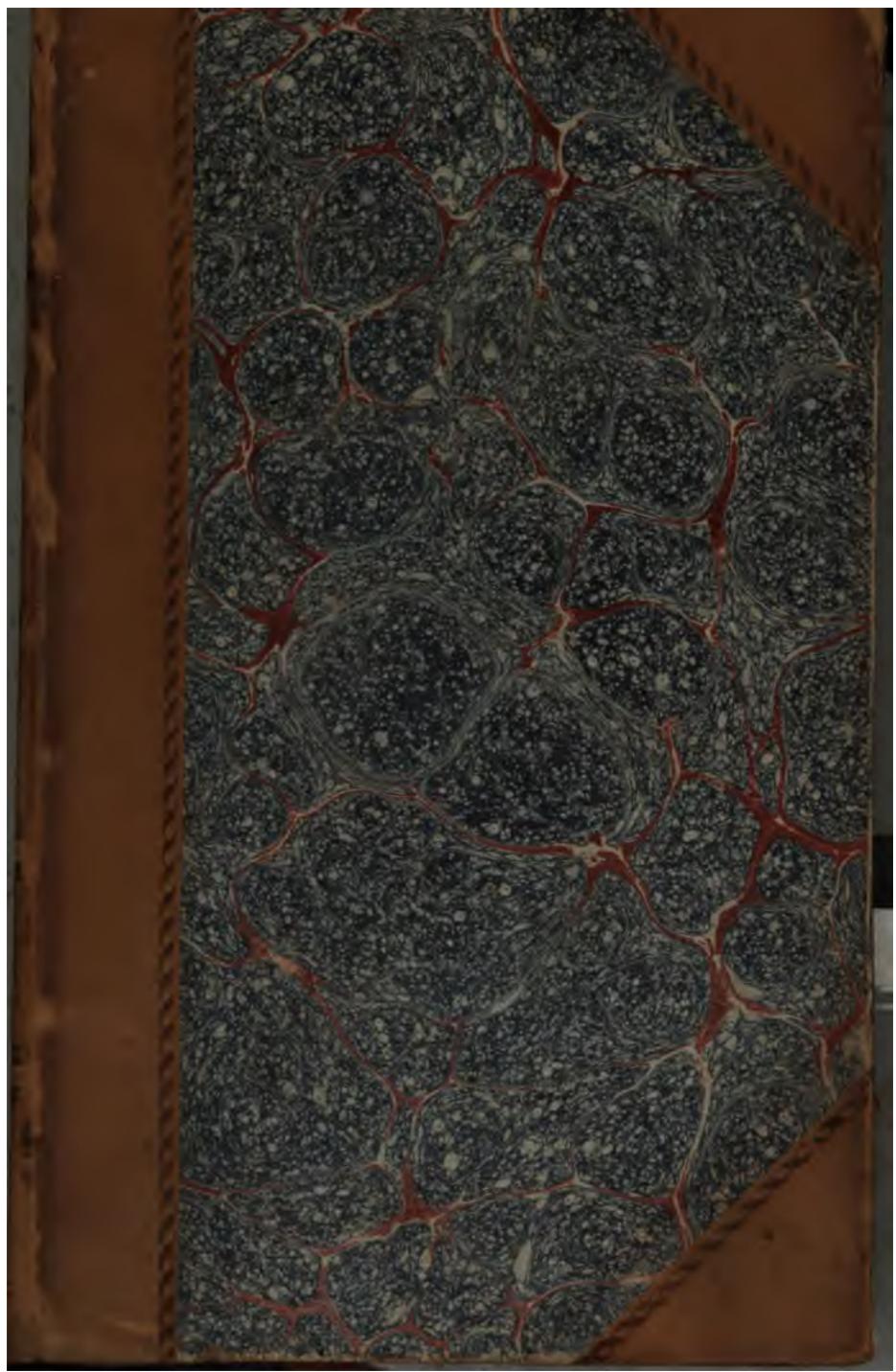
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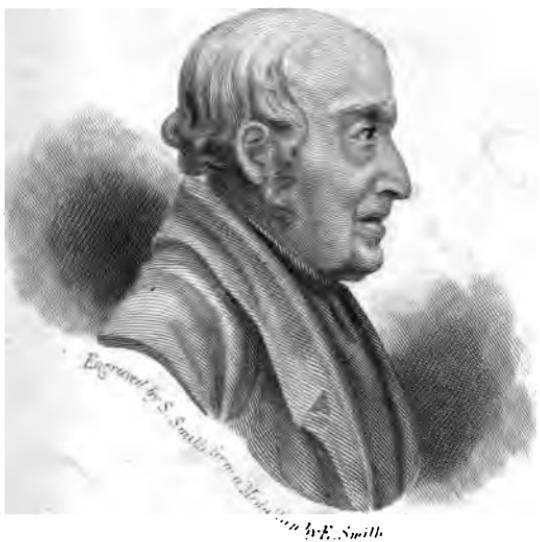
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1







MATTHIAS D'AMOUR, ESQ.

M E M O I R S
OF
MR. MATTHIAS D'AMOUR.

“ We're on a journey brief ; the day is bright,
“ And our thoughts joyous—that we shall not tire.”
We're on a journey that is infinite ;
’Mid an eternal change of sun and cloud,
Cold winter showerings and hot summer fire ;
Breathed on by zephyrs, struck by whirlwinds loud ;
And our thoughts, floating through eternity,
Are lapt by turns in joy and agony,
In glory and in gloom ; and if fatigue
Assail us not in our unresting travel,
’Tis that we make with our own souls a league
Not to look far before, but on our road
Glance round and feel employ'd : would we unravel
The Immensity beyond ? We lift a weary load.

WADE'S MUNDI ET CORDIS CARMINA.

LONDON :
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AND WHITAKER, SHEFFIELD.

1836.

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TO
JAMES MONTGOMERY, ESQ.
THE ORNAMENT OF LITERATURE,
THE PATRON OF HUMBLE MERIT, AND
THE FRIEND OF ALL MEN,
THIS
VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED
BY HIS OBLIGED AND OBEDIENT
SERVANTS,
MATTHIAS D'AMOUR,
PAUL RODGERS.



P R E F A C E.

THE compiler of the following Memoir has been asked whether the account is to be understood as a narrative of facts, or as entirely, or partially, fictitious? He therefore takes this opportunity of informing his readers, that the account, though in some instances curious, and in others bordering on the marvellous, is a history of facts, which has been given to him in interesting detail by Mr. D'Amour himself.

So far indeed is Mr. D'Amour from wishing to palm upon the world, as true, a fictitious account of himself, that he has manifested throughout the relations of these facts, a far better principle: indeed, out of respect to the feelings and interests of others, as well as through a fear of rendering himself too prominent, he has forborne to allow me to introduce some interesting particulars, and even important events.

At the same time I have no wish, in the outset, to mislead general readers who know nothing of Mr. D'Amour, by raising their expectations too high. The short account here given is an unassuming narrative of a man born to labour with his own

hands—destined, not to be served by a host of menials, but to serve.

But as Solomon observes, that he had seen Princes walk on foot while servants rode on horseback, so most of us, if we have looked about us, have made similar observations. And Mr. D'Amour's history is, perhaps, in itself, more valuable than that of some whose lives have been far more worthily recorded.

Many persons, on whose fate more auspicious stars have shone, affect to despise what is menial and humble. I am sure, had I any influence with such, I should be led heartily to wish that this short Memoir had been written in such a style as to justify me in recommending it to their perusal ; for, in all the observations which I have made on character, I have not met with a more beneficial display of the effects of unassuming philosophy, and practical Christianity, in regulating the passions and rendering the human breast a habitation of peace and goodwill, than in the story of this humble individual.

I have adopted the style of auto-biography, first, because I intended to give the account as much in his own words as possible, and because I wished to introduce his own sensible remarks in his own style and spirit : and, lastly, because I have myself generally been best pleased with biography given in the first person.

P. RODGERS.

Sheffield, Nov. 13th, 1885.

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MEMOIRS
OF
MATTHIAS D'AMOUR.

CHAP. I.

My birth and family.—Danger of being drowned when a boy, and ludicrous consequences.—My love of music and dancing, and facilities for learning —The uses which I made of my acquirements —Joined a juvenile set of players.—Remarks on my Mother's conduct towards me.—A libertine Brother, and his amendment of life.—My desire to go to Paris.—Our family jubilee in honour of parents wedding. — Solemn leave-taking.

"I hold the world, but as the world, Gratiano,
A stage, where every man must play a part."

I WAS born at Antwerp, in Belgium, Sept. 14, 1749, in the same street, and within a few doors of the birth-place of the celebrated painter, Rubens. My father's employment was that of a writer in the Antwerp Custom House. I had an uncle for many years in the service of the Spanish Ambassador at Paris. My father and mother had fourteen chil-

dren. I was the youngest but one. I cannot say that I recollect many circumstances in connexion with my childhood, which it would be interesting to narrate. As, however, most of the autobiographers with whom I have been acquainted, have had a number of escapes from drowning, strangling, &c. to give to their readers, it may not be amiss to notice one which occurred to myself.

It is well known to gazetteer readers that the town of Antwerp is surrounded by an artificial ditch, for the purpose of securing it from military invasion. When I was about eight or nine years old, I was returning one afternoon, in winter, from the suburbs, where I had been attending school, into the city. As I was passing a part of the ditch, which was frozen over at the time, I could not resist a temptation to get down the bank and upon the ice. Making no scruples as to whether it would bear me, I went splash over head into the water; and there being no person within sight or hearing, I had to struggle hard for life. With much ado, I at last managed to lay hold of a tuft of grass, or some similar substance, and thus escaped to *terra firma*.

My fears for my life were no sooner over, than I fell into apprehensions of my Mother's anger on account of the wetness of my clothes. As I proceeded homeward, all dripping with water, and trembling with fear and cold, a scheme occurred to me, of going, if possible, right away to bed. On my arrival at home, fortune favoured me remarkably: the door happened to be open, and I entered and ascended the staircase without being observed. Tak-

ing off only a part of my clothes, I crept into bed, and there I lay unobserved from about half-past four to eight or nine o'clock. I had the pleasure of hearing much wonder expressed as to what had become of me,—but lay still, notwithstanding. When it began to grow late, they became still more alarmed at my absence, and I know not what would have been done next, had not my sister chanced to come up stairs and found me in bed. On her announcing the discovery, my Mother hastened up stairs, apprehending that I must be seriously ill. As she took hold of the bed-clothes, and raised them from my person, at the same time that she questioned me, in order, I suppose, to get the evidence of two or three senses at once, a steam arose from where I lay similar to that which rises from a boiling pot, or a newly filled mash-tub ! Alarm now arose to its height,—I must be very ill indeed. In the end, I told them a part of the truth, but glossed the account by saying that some boys had pushed me into the water. I caught cold, I remember, as might have been expected ; but in a day or two was no worse in any respect.

From my childhood I was uncommonly fond of music ; and had, I believe, a rather extraordinary ear for the science. What aided me in acquiring practice, was an acquaintance which I formed with an official person in connexion with the theatre. Though I was but a child, this person took to me surprisingly, introducing me as often as I liked (which was nearly every night during the season) to a seat among the musicians. The music, instru-

mental and vocal, along with the dancing, quite absorbed my youthful attention. I had a good voice, and presently caught by the ear alone, a number of the most esteemed songs. These I used to repeat at home, and among my young companions in other places ; not confining myself to singing within doors, but often, when we happened to be at play in a retired corner of a back street, or other similar situation, I have given my comrades a specimen of my vocal melody, making the surrounding places echo with my treble pipes ; till, by the throwing open of numerous windows, and the gathering of a crowd of by-standers, our child's play would be turned into a general entertainment.

On one occasion, I recollect, when I had been exercising myself in my best style, I was accosted by a servant in livery, who asked me to accompany him into a house hard by. His master, who had himself ordered the servant to bring me to him, was one of the Superior Canons of the Cathedral ; he asked me various questions as to my parents, &c. and, after further trial of my abilities, would fain have persuaded me to become one of the choristers of the Cathedral. But, notwithstanding his giving me to understand that I should have victuals, and clothing, and every thing necessary provided for me without the aid of my parents, I steadfastly refused the offer ; neither did I ever mention the circumstance to either my Father or Mother, for fear they should have wanted me to go. After this circumstance, my fame as a singer became more generally known. I was frequently sent for to rich men's

houses, for the purpose of entertaining their families, which, of course was a means of some pecuniary benefit. On one occasion a number of musical amateurs who were in the habit of meeting at a certain hotel, entered into an engagement to try the relative abilities of myself and another boy. A wager was laid, I believe of 25 ducats a side, and a regular match went off. I recollect one of the preliminaries upon which I insisted was, that I should be allowed to have a few of my comrades to sustain separate parts in the songs, for, young as I was, I was well aware that my own singing would produce a better effect, heard occasionally, between the parts of the other boys, than it possibly could, were I to sing entirely by myself. A music master, who was present, offered to take me entirely off my parents' hands, and to afford me facilities for becoming a thorough master of the science. I did not, however, choose to leave my parents, and they did not insist upon it. I well remember on this occasion, as on various others, how my little heart was elevated with the praises bestowed upon me ; and I actually stood forward at the close of the exhibition and boldly challenged to sing any boy of my age, who, like myself, had not had a systematic training.

By attending the theatre, I became captivated too with the art of dancing ; and I never saw any thing extraordinary performed, but I used to retire to a garret, on my return home, in order privately to practice what I had seen in public : by these means I acquired, while a boy, a degree of expertness and agility which I never could have acquired in after

life. I am well aware that many parents would seriously object, and perhaps, in England, on good grounds, to such practices on the part of their children. But I must be allowed to say, that my Mother was an extraordinary woman, and I have reason to know that she did not blindly allow me to do these things without considering the consequences. I believe she understood both my mental disposition, and my physical qualifications fully. Besides, as I shall have cause hereafter to remark, the Catholic religion, especially on the Continent, and of which my parents were sincere professors, by no means requires that abstinence from youthful amusements which the Protestantism of England insists upon.

Whatever good or evil, however, there is in the opposite principles taught or allowed by Catholicism, and what is called the Reformed Religion, I am not aware that I have had cause in after life to disapprove of the liberty with which my parents indulged me. I never yielded to intemperance; indeed, the temptations to that debasing vice, are by no means so great on the southern parts of the Continent, as they are in England. I had always, too, a strict sense of integrity, and seldom transgressed the bounds marked out by conscience.

Theatrical amusements were very popular in Antwerp when I was a boy. All classes resorted to them, and even the children made plays and operas the subjects of their mimicry in their childish sports. Among the rest, I remember a number of young men and boys, taking a large old building,

undertook to re-act plays for the benefit of such as could not afford to attend the regular places. This attempt begat competition, and one evening, when I had been, out of mere curiosity, witnessing the juvenile performers, I was accosted as I retired, by several boys bigger than myself, who enquired whether or no I would join them in case they decided to try their talents in a similar way. I asked them what was their object? They said they thought the boys whom they had been looking at were a parcel of bunglers, and that they could do much better. As these sentiments were partly my own, and I had a secret inclination to try my powers, I told them I would consider of it, and let them know. I well knew that the chief reason why they wished to secure me, was for the sake of my singing and dancing, and as it is no wonder that my vanity should be a little alive on the subject, I determined to join them in case I could get my parents' consent. My eldest Sister, I recollect, remonstrated against it. My Mother, however, consented, intimating, that the attempt might do me a deal of good, by bringing into action further abilities, which she conceived me to possess.

I therefore gave in my name as a performer in the new company. The play we fixed upon for our first, was Moliere's celebrated one called the "Miser." I believe the character I sustained, was that of a young lady, the Miser's niece. Several original songs were introduced into my department, by a native poet whom we had in our company, and with amazing effect. Portions of these songs

I can still faintly recollect, and I am sure if I had the power of giving them in English, they would amuse and surprise many of my readers. This I cannot do. We had a deal of rehearsing preparatory to our first public attempt, as we were all determined, if possible, that there should be no failure. We employed a regular dancing master, and, in short, spared neither time, trouble, nor reasonable expense. As I was the youngest and the best qualified, great expectations were raised on my performances, especially in singing and dancing. Our theatre opened very auspiciously. The attendance was large, and the whole went off with abundant eclat. As to my individual performance, I was thought to sustain my feminine character, and various parts well ; my singing and capering produced me the loudest plaudits, and frequent *encores*. My immediate friends who were present, were abundantly pleased. We performed several other plays, and among the rest, I recollect on one occasion, we enacted "Robinson Crusoe."

My Mother, as I have intimated, was a shrewd woman. She was uncommonly fond of reading, and as she had some expectation of my making something out in the world, nothing pleased her better than to communicate to me, when by the fire-side, the pleasing or wonderful facts which she learned from the books to which she had access. This tended to enlarge my own mind, and to give me a taste for reading also, which I have never lost.

It may not be out of order to relate, that, at the time when I was a little boy, our family experienced

a good deal of uneasiness on account of the bad conduct of a Brother who was five or six years older than myself. This lad, whose name was Charles, had talents of no common order, as well as generosity of disposition ; but from infancy, almost, he manifested a propensity to mischief, of nearly all kinds, and among the rest, he was a sad pilferer ; so that whilst his surprising wit and ingenuity in various things, would have encouraged our parents and others to look forward to his being a chief ornament of our family, his vicious qualities made them dread no less for him than the gallows. Certainly, as I can still recollect, he was a strange fellow. Perhaps, during the same hour that my Father has been delighted, indescribably, at some amazing manifestation of precocious talent in him, has he had the grief and mortification to discover that his drawers had been broken into, and, to the amount of £5 or £10 abstracted. It was something remarkable, that he never appeared to steal for the sake of his own personal gratification. On one occasion, it was proved, that an unprincipled fellow with whom he had scraped acquaintance, got, through his means, as much of my Father's cash as bought him a cow. Nor was stealing the only way in which he shewed the distortions of his moral capacity. He was a thorough-going genius at almost all mischief.

I would not, however, have thus, in the language of Scripture, “uncovered the nakedness of my Brother,” had it not been for the sake of giving a better account of him in the end. When he was about the age of twelve or fourteen, he was one day performing

some conspicuous manœuvre among a number of his companions in the street, when he attracted the attention of a gentleman who was riding by in his carriage. I do not remember the particulars of the exploit, but it is sufficient to say, the gentleman made a stop ; he enquired who were the boys' parents, and having sought out our house, and obtained all the information possible, which my Father gave him very faithfully, he concluded by asking, if he might be allowed to take him as a servant ? The request, in the circumstances, seemed a strange one ; my Father, however, acquiesced in it.

Charles took his leave of us in a very few days, but the general expectation was that the gentleman would be robbed, or in some way injured, and that we should presently either receive him back again, or hear tell of him being sent to prison. My Father, I remember, expressed his opinion strongly. Strange to tell, however, from that day to the time when I last communicated with my family, I never heard of any thing concerning him but what would have been a credit to the most moral and even religious character ! It seems from the period of his leaving home, either from the curious circumstances under which he left us, or from the influence of new connections, he began seriously to reflect on the evil of his own ways, and to reform his conduct. The gentleman's house was a good many miles distant, so that my Brother had few opportunities of coming over, but what we heard of him from time to time was always satisfactory.

It proved in the end, that he who had threatened

to be the greatest trouble to our whole family, became a means of its greatest comfort. When he had been a few years in service, my Father and Mother received a letter from him, the reading of which threw us all into tears of gratitude and joy, for Charles had actually determined, on account of his past conduct, which he described with the most pathetic self-condemnation and contrition, to give his whole future life as a penance for the same by entering a monastery! The letter was to ask our Father and Mother's leave, and he actually put the resolution into effect, having first disposed of all his worldly goods, chiefly as presents to myself.

At the time I was 20 years of age my Father and Mother had twelve children still living, six sons and six daughters. Only the eldest, which was a daughter, and myself the youngest living child, remained at home; the rest were curiously scattered up and down the world. In fact two of my elder brothers I had never seen, they having both left home before I was born. One was at Paris, and had made his way into an elevated situation under the Receiver General of the French Finances. The other was in Germany, and in the practice of the law. I had also a brother a priest, besides the lay-monk already mentioned.

My Parisian Brother had, on some strange account, ceased to send letters to my Father, and we were for years and knew not any thing of him. At last, however, we found him out by the means of my Uncle, and the correspondence was renewed. At the time I was about one and twenty, one of my .

Brothers paid a visit to Paris ; and, on his return, gave such an account of his journey,—of the French capital, and of my Brother's circumstances there, as made me long, with an unceasing anxiety, to go likewise. Mentioning the project, however, to my Father, he was much averse to my leaving him and my Mother, and tried to dissuade me. Yet I could by no means give it up, and got my Brother, the priest, to intercede with my Father for his consent. At last, the good old man yielded, on condition, that I was to remain at Antwerp till we had kept the jubilee of his own wedding, which was to take place in nearly a year from the then present time. I was very reluctant to consent to the delay ; but a sense of duty to my aged parents at last overcame for a time my strong desire of seeing foreign parts.

At the time appointed we kept the proposed jubilee. Our guests were numerous, and some of them of no little consequence in the family. Among others, was my Brother from Germany. When he arrived, I happened not to be at home, and my eldest sister having a mind to try the boasted effects of the sympathy of consanguinity, introduced him to me as a cousin merely. Our meeting, however, produced no wonderful results ; at least none in proof of the doctrine alluded to. The festival was kept for eight successive days. During these days, we by no means spent our time in the manner in which some of my English readers will understand by festivity, that is, in eating and drinking to excess ; but rather in innocent and rational amusements ; interesting discourses of our

individual adventures, &c. On the last day of our rejoicings we all went in procession to the Abbey of St. Michael, when my Brother, the priest, specially said mass on the occasion, and with the assistance of the lay monk, administered the sacrament to my Father, Mother, and ten of their children, besides a great number of cousins and other relations.

CHAP. II.

Set out for Paris.—Ignorant of French language.—Difficulties in exchanging Belgian for French money, and of purchasing necessaries.—Arrive at Valenciennes.—Push on to Cambrai.—Weary and footsore.—Kindness of the people.—Overtake a French soldier.—Arrive at Paris.

"Farewell, my masters; to my task will I:
Bonfires in France forthwith I am to make."

KING HENRY VI.

THE very next day after our festival had ceased, I turned my back on my native home, and my face towards the frontiers of France, intending eventually to see Paris. My Brother the lay Monk whose way lay in the same direction to a certain extent, kept me company as far as Brussels. Although I had formed the resolution of going to France so long beforehand, I had strangely neglected to acquire even the slightest knowledge of the French language. I had taken care, however, before starting, to provide myself with the names of places, great and small, through which I should have to pass, as I intended to go entirely on foot. As we walked on towards Brussels, my Brother took some pains to teach me a little French, with which language he was well acquainted. He particularly

taught me to repeat in French, “Which is the way to —?” leaving me to fill up the blank from my list of towns, &c. Notwithstanding these precautions, when I came to enter the French territory, I found myself extremely incommoded for want of a knowledge of the language.

In the first French town at which I stopped, it happened that the waiter of the inn where I sojourned, understood both the French and the Belgian, and, as he seemed to take a little interest in my affairs, I got him to assist me in getting my Belgian money changed into French coin. These coins I did not understand, and was liable to be seriously imposed upon, had the persons of whom I had to purchase my necessary articles been so disposed. I remember one of the first things I bought was a pound of cherries; not knowing the value, neither how to ask, I threw down three or four of my small tin-looking pieces, and was astonished to have them all given back to me except one, with some copper coin into the bargain. After this, whenever it was necessary for me to purchase any thing of which I did not know, nor could by words understand the price, my practice was to throw down a larger piece, which I was sure would over-pay, and received in silence what change the person chose to give me. These inconveniences, however, I overcame by degrees.

I think it was on the second day of my travels in France that I arrived at Valenciennes. It was in the middle of the afternoon. There I ought, certainly to have remained all night; but, like

many other inexperienced travellers, I was more economical of my time than of my strength and comfort, and, having refreshed myself, I undertook the difficult task of proceeding onward to Cambray the same afternoon. Before I got there I was in the most weary condition ; and to add to my difficulties, it began to grow dark, and I was afraid that the gates of Cambray would be closed against me. I tried to console myself as well as possible ; and as it was autumn, and the corn nearly ripe, I concluded that, as a last resource, I might for one night, make shift to lodge in one of the corn fields.

When I got to Cambray, the gates were closed, as I had anticipated. Through the kindness of the officers, however, who were near at hand, I gained admittance through a small wicket. The chief object of their vigilance being to prevent, or detect smuggling, and being easily convinced by my way-worn and simple appearance, that I was nothing but a weary traveller, I was allowed to enter : merely being interrogated as to whether I had any tobacco ? Not comprehending their question, I simply offered them my snuff-box. On being better informed, I made them understand as well as I could what I was, and whither I was going ; and showed them, moreover, by signs, that what I most wanted at present, was a draught of cold water, and then a place to lay down to rest. One of these kind-hearted Frenchmen immediately accompanied me to an inn, and assisted me to order what I wanted. I remember, above all, how anxious he was to prevent me from drinking water too cold or in

too great a quantity. Indeed, in my present circumstances, not attending to these precautions might have been followed by bad consequences. Being young, and of a good constitution, a night's rest fully restored my whole frame, except my feet, which were still sore. Next morning I was on the road in moderate time, and had not proceeded far before I was interrogated by a soldier who was walking by the side of a cart upon which a woman was seated. The kind-hearted veteran saw that I was weary and foot-sore, and invited me to get up in the place of his wife, and ride. I declined the offer; for who, with the least galantry, could have accepted it; but was overjoyed to find that the woman, though the wife of a French soldier, was a native of Brussels, and was as glad as myself to converse in our native tongue. Had she been an angel from heaven she could not have been more welcome to me. I had never, till within the last few days, been taught by the loss what a blessing speech is, and having recovered it now, I made the best possible use of it by making all the enquiries necessary for my situation. It happened that our way lay together for several hours, and by the time we parted, I had gained for myself much useful information.

I set off from home on the morning of Monday, and it was in the middle of the following Sunday afternoon when I first saw the splendid city of Paris. Towards evening, in passing along the suburbs, I overheard some men conversing in my own language. I stepped up to them and asked how they did?

They happened to know the place for which I was inquiring, and offered, if I would join them in drinking a little liquor, to conduct me to the end of my journey. I readily consented, but have often thought since, considering my youth and inexperience, how I might have been decoyed and robbed ; but it was happy for me on this as on many other occasions, that those with whom I chanced to meet were of a description different from many who lay wait to beguile and to destroy. As we passed along towards my Brother's house, we had to cross the celebrated Boulevards. I have often smiled at the circumstance since, when we were about coming in contact with the vast crowd of people always walking there, I simply asked one of my guides if we had not better wait till all the people had come out of the church ? My Brother's residence was under the same roof with the Receiver General, his master. On making inquiry for him by name, we were told that he was gone to the Opera, and would not return till nine o'clock. This was rather a disastrous circumstance : however, on my companions informing the servants that they had brought Monsieur's Brother, they were much surprised, and we were bidden to wait till his arrival.

CHAP. III.

INTRODUCTION to my Brother.—His elevated situation.—Introduction to my Sister-in-law.—My own metamorphosis.—Dancing.—Learning the language.—Excursion to Versailles.—Royal wedding.—Get inside the Palace.—Lose my companions,—Pass the guards.—Present inside the ball room.—Fireworks.—Exit from Palace.—Meet my friends again.—Return to Paris.

" And radiant beings went and came,
Far swifter than wind, or the linked flame ;
She hid her e'en frae the dazzling view ;
She look'd again and the scene was new."

QUEEN'S WAKE.

ALTHOUGH, had my Brother been a Count of France, he could not have appeared more like a gentlemen ; and notwithstanding I had never before seen him, yet, on his coming in, I discovered our family features on the first glance. I presented a letter to him with which I had been provided by my Father ; and what pleased me most, was that, when he had ascertained my identity, he seemed not at all ashamed of me. He had been so long away from Antwerp, that he had nearly forgotten his native tongue, and it was with difficulty I made him understand the compliments which I had to present.

Before bed-time, I saw by the gestures and deportment of several of my Brother's companions, that my appearance and behaviour had made a favourable impression on their minds ; and I discovered that they were intimating to each other that, as he had no children, he ought to take me entirely to himself. My Brother, although he had not an entire establishment of his own, was married. My Sister-in-law, a fashionable French lady, was in the household of a daughter of the French prime minister. My Brother introduced me to her on the morning after my arrival. As she approached where I was, I had an opportunity for a moment's reflection, and I could scarcely help doubting that *I* should be *brother* to so *fine a lady*. My Brother had previously instructed me that my manner of salutation must be by giving her a kiss, which part of my duty it will readily be believed I did not accomplish without some degree of embarrassment.

These preliminaries being got over, my Brother informed me, that, as I was intending to remain, at least for a short time, it would be needful for our mutual credit that I should be new rigged from head to foot. I was somewhat surprised at this, as I had really been at a good deal of pains and expense to set myself off, as I thought, to the best advantage. But it appeared we disagreed in our opinions on the subject, and I submitted, of course, to the necessary metamorphosis. Among other alterations, my own plain waistcoat made way for one bedizened with no small quantity of

broad gold lace. My small-clothes were garnished with gold knee garters. My silk stockings made me feel a peculiar sensation in my legs. The buckles of my shoes were enormously large and of the first fashion ; and, to complete all, my Brother insisted that, to be upon a par with himself and the other gentlemen of the establishment, it was quite essential that I should wear at my side a hanger or short sword.

On being thus ornamented and accoutred for the first time, I instinctively sought a mirror in which I should be able to take a view of myself fairly, and could not avoid inwardly asking the question, "Is it really myself or not?" Having discovered that it really was myself and no other, I endeavoured, as well as I could, to suit my address and behaviour in every respect to my change of circumstances. In one particular I possessed an advantage which every one will not at the first moment be able to appreciate ; being a foreigner, newly arrived, no mere Frenchman, however well-bred and polite himself, would be aware but that I was as accomplished as himself when in my own country, and I received many a token of reverence which would have been scornfully withheld had my deficiencies been understood. During this time, my Sister, who, as I have already intimated, was herself highly accomplished, took much pains to instruct me in all necessary etiquette, in which science I soon made considerable progress ; indeed, in a little time, I became, in some respects, rather a credit to my friends than otherwise.

My Brother and Sister knew nothing of my proficiency as a dancer ; my talents, however, in this line were soon turned to good account ; for not long after I had gained some familiarity among my new acquaintances, the upper domestics of the household had a splendid ball, at which I among the rest, was expected to attend. My Sister, not being herself aware of my proficiency, desired a certain lady of her acquaintance to take me under her protection as a partner, that, by a little manœuvring, my imperfections might have a veil thrown over them. I silently heard them lay their plans, at the same time laughing in my sleeve. When the time came, I watched my opportunity, and putting myself in the way of another lady, who, I well knew, was a good dancer, contrived to be selected by her. Our performance was received with thunders of applause ; above all, my Sister scarcely knew how to contain herself for joy.

The way in which I learned much of the French tongue was, by frequently, during the former part of the day, spending some time among the lower servants, as they went about their work : often taking up an utensil, or touching some piece of furniture, I would pronounce “*Qu'est ce que vous appelez cela ?*” Or, “how do you call this?” I took care that the answer they gave me should give rise to some other question, by which I should learn something more. These questions, and this method I repeated at different times, till I became familiar not only with the names of things, but until I could hold conversation so as to be tolerably well under-

stood. It will be observed that, in this way, I sought not only to receive instruction, but also to keep others as much in the dark as possible of my real ignorance.

It happened, that after I had been about a year with my Brother, and had become in some measure familiar with high life, that a wedding took place in the French Royal Family. The parties married were the Count D'Artois, (now the exiled Charles X.,) and a daughter of the King of Sardinia. The ceremony took place at Versailles.

A few days previous, my Brother asked me if I should like to go to Versailles to see the illuminations? I told him I certainly should, and he not only encouraged me to go, but afforded me some facilities for the journey. I had become acquainted in Paris with two of my own countrymen, who had lately come from Belgium; and we set out all three together. Upon the road we clubbed our money into one common fund, and one of my companions was made purse-keeper. On arriving at Versailles, we first walked round the outside of the palace, beholding and admiring every thing which excited or astonished our wonder-stricken capacities. At last, following the example of many others, we entered inside, and were admitted into a large gallery. This gallery was closed by several gates, or barriers, kept by a sufficient number of officers. After we had walked here for some time without any other interruption than that of the crowded state of the place, a command was given to "sweep the gallery." Im-

mediately a great number of officers drove the people before them with as great dispatch as ever a conquering army drove its discomfited opponents. Good luck was on my side, as I happened to be placed in such circumstances as prevented my retiring along with the common cowards of the day.

I had now lost my two companions, and being dressed in the new suit which my Brother had bought me, the elegance of which has already been described, when the people had disappeared, I soon saw that the officers regarded me with a degree of respect. The circumstance encouraged me, and I immediately assumed more than my legitimate share of importance. In a short time an individual, of as much real importance, I have no doubt, as I was in appearance, as he passed by me, going inwards, bade the officers admit a few as the rooms began to thin a little ; I took heart again, and commenced following this friend's footsteps ; I was immediately laid hold of, however, at one of the barriers, and the demand made "where are you going ?" I could make no answer, and all would now have been over, had not my guide, unknown but welcome, turning his head, bidden them "allow the gentleman to pass." I went on accordingly, and at the end of the gallery I saw a room filled with the King's guards. They interrupted me by the same perplexing question, "where are you going ?" I was again dumb.

Being now refused passage, I was turning disconsolately round to come back again, when I saw a gentleman turn up a narrow kind of a stair ; I fol-

lowed till a door was opened, which, I thought, in a moment, revealed Paradise to mortal eyes! In short, I was in the royal ball-room. The place was immensely large, and as for splendour, it was well nigh overpowering. Lewis XV. sat in an arm chair, with the Princes of the blood on one hand, and the Princesses on the other. Here I saw the Dauphin, afterwards Lewis the XVI., besides several others who met their tragical fate in the troubles of their unhappy country. I saw the manner in which refreshments were served ; their cups were beautifully crowned with flowers, &c. ; and sitting in a gallery among the second nobility of France, was doubtless the only individual who, with vulgar eyes, was permitted to gaze upon these royal pastimes. They danced minuets, which performances, it may well be supposed, were charming enough to one observer. I heard the names of the Princes and Princesses which danced in company. The ball was over about nine o'clock at night.

On the company being arranged for the Royal Family to pass through a part of the gallery already named, I was the only one who could not take my station according to my rank or qualification. This did not however prevent me seeing as well as the rest. The Royal party passed close by me, and I got an impression of their physiognomy which I could not but recall with a degree of sorrow, when, years afterwards, I heard of their lamentable decapitation. I observed the floors of the rooms and gallery to sparkle with numerous particles of gold after the departure of the Royal Family and their noble at-

tendants, the gold having fallen from their glittering robes in their various movements.

After the ball, the illustrious party passed into the Royal balcony, in sight of which a great quantity of fire works were exhibited. What most took my attention was Vulcan with his Cyclops forging thunder for Jupiter. At the conclusion, an incredible number of rockets went off in long succession, which made the most tremendous noise I ever heard.

On making my exit from the palace, and gaining the open streets, I for the first time became aware of my unpleasant situation. I had, in losing my companions, lost every farthing of my money; it was the middle of the night, and I was more than twenty miles from Paris. While in this dilemma, I spied a carriage just setting out for the capital; I ran and got hold of it, hoping, with its assistance, to be able to run all the way. Just as we were about starting, as luck would have it, I was seen by my two quondam friends, who had been many hours in search of me. Our joy was mutual. We remained all night at Versailles, and travelled to Paris next day. On my Brother asking me how I liked the illumination, and on my telling him what I had seen, he could not at first believe but that my inexperience had been deceived, and that I had seen some grand show which I had mistaken for the real splendour of royalty. I had sufficient means, however, to convince him of the fact.

CHAP. IV.

UNEASY at not being my own supporter.—Return to Antwerp.—Commence qualifying myself for active life.—Hear of a situation.—Apply to Count D'Balleatta.—Rejected.—Re-application.—Again refused.—Finally sent for and engaged.—Set out for Normandy.—Jack Boots.—Saddle sick.—Overtaken by a Courier to the Danish Ambassador.—Arrive at Paris.—Travel on to Caen. A favourite with my Master.—An imprudent frolic, and accident.—Quarrel with Master's Tutor.—Tell my Master a secret.—Contrive to secure a new Master.—Leave the Count D'Balleatta's service, and engage with a Mr Campbell.

“ All hail, great master! grave Sir, hail! I come
To answer thy best pleasure; be't to fly,
To swim, to dive into the fire, or ride
On the curl'd clouds.”

THE TEMPEST.

WHEN I had been a year and a half with my Brother and Sister, being still without any particular employment to procure myself an income, I began to feel not very easy in what I considered a state of dependency: I, therefore, gave my Brother a hint one day, that I must think, either of some employment, or of returning to my own country. My Sister was for retaining me, and did not doubt but that some

thing would easily be found by which the abilities I possessed would raise me in the world. My Brother, however, seeing a little farther than she did, would have me return to Antwerp for a few months, and qualify myself by learning to dress ladies' hair, and to write and speak the French language, for such a situation of ease and profit as he knew he could procure me very readily. I followed his advice, and though I did not, as he probably expected, become a permanent inhabitant of the French Capital, yet I know not that, for my worldly advantage, I could have received or followed advice which would have answered so well. I left Paris in the middle of winter, with a mutual understanding among us, that I should go home and fit myself to return by the following October.

As I would not by any means make my tale a tedious one, I shall pass over a number of minor circumstances, and relate in as simple a style as possible, what I judge in my own mind, will be most interesting. It is true, if I thought myself justified in being more minute, the thread of my narrative might seem sometimes less broken; but as I am confident that, by this plan, I should forfeit my readers' patience, I will not adopt it.

What I had entered upon I by no means neglected, but immediately on my arrival at home, turned my attention in the way my brother desired, and soon became a proficient at the toilette, and attained a tolerable degree of knowledge of the French language. It would be uninteresting to dwell with minuteness on little circumstances which

occurred during this short period, and in what particular light my friends viewed my projects. I will rather go on to say, that, during the month of August following, the barber, who had been my preceptor in the art of curling and adorning, informed me, one day, that a certain nobleman in the neighbourhood, namely the Count D'Baleatte, wanted a person who could speak French, dress hair, and ride on horse-back. I made no delay, but went directly after the situation.

This I did the more eagerly, as I had lately become desirous of being able to act independently of my Brother at Paris ; for I had found it out that he had, in a letter to my Mother, spoken rather slightly of me, saying, "that I was young and had much to learn from experience, and that I thought all was gold that glittered, &c."

When I arrived at the Count D'Baleatte's, the porter, of whom I made my first enquiries, stared most wonderfully at my pretensions ; but it happened there were some female domestics in the house to whom my family were well known, and they kindly took upon themselves to ask the important man, if he knew whom he was slighting ? that, in short, "Mr. D'Amour, they were confident, possessed every necessary qualification." In this, however, they were not strictly right, for as to riding on horse-back, I believe I had once in my life been astride of a horse, but was so ignorant of the simple principles of guiding the animal, that I was in imminent danger of riding into a church ; indeed, it was thought by some people who were looking at me, that I ac-

tually should have done so.* It was all one, however, for my present purpose, that the Count was told I could ride, as I did not doubt I should soon learn.

I should have stated that the Count D'Balleatte, to whom I was offering my services was a minor, and on the point of setting out to enter upon the pursuit of his studies, at the celebrated academy at Caen, in Lower Normandy. The individual with whom I had to treat on the subject was the lady, his mother; and notwithstanding she received a favourable account of me from her own maid, she hesitated very much to engage me on account of my youth; in fact, at our first interview, she gave me a refusal, saying she could not think of it. In the mean time, the young nobleman himself conceived a strong desire to overcome his mother's objections, and to obtain me; and in order to come at his purpose, as I afterwards learned, he ordered the porter to refuse all other applications. In the course of about a fortnight, therefore, the maid contrived to see me, and told me to come and offer myself again; when I heard how matters stood I did not hesitate so to do. The young Count had not hitherto seen me; but on this occasion, as I was afterwards told, he got behind a carriage near the house, in order to take a view of me privately. On being introduced a second time to the lady, she said "she was grieved at heart in consequence of the determination of her son, for she was sorely afraid he and his valet would do nothing but play together."

* This happened at Paris.

I modestly but courageously told her, "that it was not always the oldest head which was the wisest." Although this remark evidently pleased her, yet she still refused to engage me, and I returned home in full expectation that all was over.

In a short time, however, the maid called upon me again, and told me I was to come to the hall. On presenting myself to the porter, he informed me that he had reason to know that this time I should succeed. I inquired how he knew it? His answer was, that her ladyship had just procured from himself a piece of money, of a certain coinage, which she always made use of in hiring all her servants. I certainly thought this looked like a good omen in my behalf, and it is scarcely necessary to add, that I was ultimately engaged, to my heart's content. I retired home in raptures, to think that I was about to make my way in the world without the aid of my Brother.

On the very next Monday after my engagement, my Master, the young Count, his tutor, and myself, set out for Normandy. I was asked before starting, whether I would prefer soft boots or jack boots? I said jack boots; although in truth I knew not the difference; but I concluded that it would not do, in my present circumstances, to confess ignorance. The Count and his governor travelled in the carriage, and my duty was to ride before, to provide relays of horses, &c. For the first stage I rode very well, and thought if that was riding on horse-back I could ride away to Jerusalem if necessary. When I came, however, to the second stage, a change of

horses made me feel very uneasy, and I grew worse. Towards the end of the stage I became sorely saddle sick, and would have been glad to have been at the end of my journey.

While in this condition, I was overtaken by a courier belonging to an Ambassador of Denmark, going before his master, and on the same errand as myself.

As soon as he overtook me, seeing I was not accustomed to riding, he accosted me as follows :—

“ Sir, you are not accustomed to the saddle.”

“ No, Sir, this is the first time of my riding post, and I am very near wishing it may be the last.”

“ You don't sit so easy as you might do,—your stirrups are too short,”—and he gave me some further directions, and kindly engaged, if I would take time, to order my horses at the next stage. I heartily thanked him, and followed his directions.

Paris was our next stage ; and right glad I was when we got there. We remained at the French capital two or three days, which gave me an opportunity of seeing my Brother and Sister, and other friends ; this was very desirable, also, as affording me rest in my wearied and excoriated limbs. When I came to mount again, I did it not without secret reluctance, and by the time we were at our journey's end I had much ado to walk from my horse's side into the house. However I was quite inclined to cover my infirmities as much as possible, and in a few days I was fully recovered.

Being now safely planted, as I thought, in my situation, I soon attained a good degree of my

young master's favour, and had nothing to do but to wait upon him. After I had been with him about eight or ten months, an imprudent frolic, which I assisted him to play, was very near costing me my life. It was expected that all the young students should attend church at a certain hour every day. This part of my master's duty he attended to, on the whole, pretty well, although as most persons will imagine it would be rather irksome to young gentlemen generally. One morning the Count told me that he intended to give them the slip for once, and that when it was time to go to mass we would go and hire each of us a horse, and have a ride instead. This proposal suited me exceedingly well, and we did so ; but as we were riding along, I a little behind my master, the horse on which he rode, most unexpectedly threw out his foot—struck my leg, and fractured it severely. To have confessed the whole truth would perhaps have cost me my situation, or at least it would have procured me the displeasure of the tutor. I therefore took, as I thought, the readiest way of getting out of the dilemma, by giving a plausible account of the transaction. A surgical operation had to be performed upon the wound, of a very serious nature, and I was obliged to remain in bed for two whole months. During this time I happened to have some unpleasant words with the tutor, who in his pet told me that I should certainly leave when my year was up. This I could never forget ; and though I was well satisfied with my situation in other respects, I secretly determined that his word should not be violated.

At the same time I felt not a little anxiety as to what I should do in the event of such a separation, for I felt determined, that under such circumstances, I would not seek the aid of my Brother at Paris. It happened, however, about this time, that the tutor had been writing to the Count's mother, and complaining of the stubborn conduct of his ward. The lady gave the tutor in return some directions, and by way of soothing him, joined, herself, in lamenting her son's disobedience. The tutor was so elated with what he considered his victory, that he could not withhold the news from me, but told me all about it. I confess I had a thorough dislike to this man's Major Domo style of treating both the Count and myself ; and I did not scruple to make my advantage of what he had told me in the following manner :—

As I was riding out one day with my young master, he commenced seriously telling me, "that he did not know what he was to do, that his life was most unhappy, as he had received a letter from his mother, from the contents of which he had strong reason to apprehend she had lost all affectionate regard for him." I told him, in reply, "to make himself perfectly easy, that he might depend upon it his mother loved him as much as usual ;" and (as I perceived this circumstance might be made to serve a scheme which I had much at heart) I added, "that knwe I something of which he was ignorant, and which, in my mind, threw a deal of light upon his mother's letter. " Of course he enquired very eagerly what I knew ; but I peremptorily refused to tell

him, except on one condition. I told him that for what I should disclose, or for some other cause, I might very easily fall under the displeasure of the tutor, and might thus lose my situation ; which result, as he might comprehend, would be somewhat unfortunate for me in my present circumstances ; my character as yet not being established. I therefore made it the condition of my revealing my secret, that he should first write me a character, as having served him well, and that he had no further need of me,—and that he left me at Antwerp. He, therefore, having fully performed this condition, and having signed the document with his own signet, I proceeded to tell him that the mysterious affair of his mother's late displeasure was all owing to the tutor, who had been ungenerously telling tales of him in his letters. He asked me how I could know that ? I replied from the tutor's own lips ; and, as it happened, he had given me sufficient means of proving to the Count, that what I asserted was true.

I now laughed in my sleeve to think how conveniently I had got a character, signed with the Count D'Baleatte's own signet, to take with me when my year was expired ; (for I was still resolved to leave, on account of the tutor's harsh and dominant conduct) : and with such a character, I felt no fear of meeting either my Brother at Paris, or any one else. Neither did I allow myself to think for a moment, that in my manner of obtaining it, I had done wrong ; for as to the tutor, he stood too high in the good graces of the lady mother to be moved by the pettish complaints of her son ; and

as for making any breach between the Major Domo and his ward, the former never treated the latter so as to be likely to gain a large share of his affections.

In order, therefore, to prepare for the event of my leaving the Count's service, I privately made known my resolution to several of my friends within the establishment at Caen. The consequence was, after a short time, I was sent for by a gentleman who resided near the academy, and asked by him whether I really intended to leave my present master. Replying in the affirmative, he asked me if I had a mind to go to England? I told him I should have no objection, provided I could meet with a promising situation. "Well then," said he, "Mr. Campbell, a young gentleman who sits next to your master every day at the dinner table will engage you; but mind, he will say nothing to you on the subject till you have entirely left your present situation." This was some time before the expiration of my year, but secrecy and faithfulness being promised on both sides, I went about my business and said nothing to any one till the very day on which I was at liberty.

CHAP. V.

MOTIVE for leaving the Count D'Balleste.—Set off for England.—Arrive at Boulogne.—My attention to the customs of the English there.—Impeded by snow.—Arrival at Calais.—Dover.—Reflections on an English dinner.—Arrive at London.—Ludicrous affair with Mr. Campbell's Tutor.—An English Sunday.—Mr. Campbell, a Military Officer.—Accompany him to Chichester.—Further surprised with English customs.—Remove to Lewes.—Singular meeting with a native of Antwerp.—A fishing excursion.—A dilemma.—Umbrage taken at my familiarity with my Master.—Notice to leave him.—Resolve to go to London.—Query as to character.—Obtain several, with various voluntary recommendations.

"Therefore, prepare thyself;
The bark is ready, and the wind at help,
The associates tend, and every thing is bent
For England."

HAMLET.

THE Count was surprised at my leaving him, and proffered to increase my wages. This I of course refused, although on his account I was grieved to do so, and the very day on which I left my situation, I got installed in another. Several considerations induced me to take this step ; one of the most weighty of which was, a desire of going to England.

My new master remained at the Academy after my hiring with him for some months, and it was in the middle of the winter 1776, that we set out for England.

We met with nothing particular till we got to Boulogne. This place being the resort of many English people, it was there I first became acquainted with some of their peculiar customs. I will mention two instances which made an impression on me, as they would on any other foreigner coming from the South of the Continent. On the first evening of our arrival at Boulogne, my master ordered me to see that the sheets of the bed were well aired. I received his order, and transmitted it to the servant of the inn verbatim, inwardly wondering what the airing of the sheets should mean. I therefore carefully watched their movements, till I saw them hang the sheets before the fire, and it filled me with secret astonishment that English people should fancy to have their bedclothes roasted, for I had actually never seen the thing practised before, the dry air of my own country rendering this important precaution unnecessary. Another singularity was, my master ordered me to procure him toasted cheese and mustard for supper. This I actually laughed at, not doubting that he was intending to put a joke upon me.

On the morning after our arrival at Boulogne, I witnessed no mean specimen of the form which winter can assume in these more Northern climates, for, during the night, there had fallen perhaps as great a quantity of snow as ever was known to

descend in so short a space of time. Our landlord would fain have dissuaded us from attempting to proceed on our journey, giving it as his opinion that travelling was impossible ; contrary to his advice, however, we made the attempt, but had our labour for our pains, being obliged to return. After remaining at Boulogne, therefore, for several days and nights, we set out again, and proceeded with difficulty for three or four miles, when, coming to a village, we were obliged to halt again. This place was full of travellers, who, like ourselves, were impeded in their progress. Here we were all under the necessity of remaining till we had almost consumed every thing eatable. At last a subscription was entered into, and twenty-four villagers were hired to cut a way through the drifted snow ; which being effected, we got away from our confinement, and ultimately arrived at Calais.

My impressions on seeing the sea for the first time, were, I suppose, like those of many other people ; and of course to such as have seen it, I need not attempt to describe them. For the sake, however, of others who have not had an opportunity of gazing upon the fathomless abyss, I may just remark that, although I had in some measure prepared myself for a wonderful sight, I could not help being amazed beyond conception. I cannot but imagine that the effect is somewhat similar to what it would be were we to attain, suddenly, the power of some new and untried sense. I gazed and gazed, as I stood on the shore, and even after the outward

vision was closed, my mind still dwelt on the overwhelming object. We landed at Dover about eight o'clock in the morning. I had been dreadfully sea-sick, but that having subsided, the sight of the victuals at the Inn made me feel very hungry.

Were I to give a minute account of all the wonderments with which I was beset, young and foreigner as I was, and at a time when intercommunication between this country and France was less common and easy than at present, I apprehend some of my readers would be ready to doubt my veracity. Toasting bread was what I had never seen in my life before I landed in England.

We remained at Dover for several days, and having little to do myself, but merely to be at the call of my master, I planted myself where I could best observe the manners of the household servants. It happened there was going to be, on the afternoon of the day on which we landed, a public dinner at the Inn, on some occasion. The manner of cooking and getting up an English dinner, occupied my most earnest attention. Having been given to understand that the dinner party was to be a large one, I inwardly wondered where all the victuals were to come from, as I could not, for my life, discover, anywhere, more than would make two or three dishes ; and it was not without concern that I saw the cooks place a large turkey upon the middle of a dish, and some partridges on each side of it, as my notions of economy, had I been placed in their circumstances, would have taught me to divide them into

two dishes. I was a little relieved when I saw, brought from a back kitchen, a large ham, and likewise a famous round of beef.

The pot was boiling, and I supposed, to be sure, it contained something which would be made available for the occasion ; but I was little prepared to expect that its contents were of such a motley description—veal—plum-pudding—nets of vegetables, &c. &c. were forked out, one after another, so that I could not avoid, inwardly, comparing the vessel to Noah's Ark, the contents of which were designed to spread over the whole earth. Presently, also, to complete my satisfaction, a stout John-Bull-looking fellow came in, bearing on his head a large board, heaped with puddings, pies, and joints of meat in plentiful abundance. My fears for the dinner party were now all over, and when I came to dine myself, I did full justice to my own professions of hunger, without, at the same time, having any fear of pinching others.

After a day or two's sojourn at Dover, we set off for London by way of Canterbury. Nothing particular occurred by the way, except that the snow had fallen in such quantities, as entirely to block up the road for many miles. A narrow passage was cut through the drifted masses, along which we were enabled to travel in a coach and four, the horses being attached to the vehicle in a single row. Here and there the way was cut a little wider for the convenience of cross passengers. Our way being thus walled up on each side of us, prevented me from viewing the scenery of a country which is most of

all famed in the map of modern Europe. We remained in London three weeks.

Mr. Campbell had a tutor, who of course had travelled along with us, a Mr. B——. While on the Continent this gentleman had shewn himself a good-natured, and, indeed, a somewhat merry fellow. At Boulogne, particularly, he had attended a masquerade on a Sunday evening, along with Mr. Campbell ; and had, moreover, through kindness, been the means of introducing me there. In short, he had in every respect behaved himself as a man of the world is expected to do on the Continent. My readers, then, may judge of what my surprise was, when, on the second day after our arrival in London, on my coming into the room, I found him sitting by the side of my master dressed in a grave suit of black, and his head garnished with a bob-wig—in fact, in the whole uniform of a clergyman ! The entire change of figure which the tutor presented, produced such an effect upon my risible faculties, that I involuntarily burst into laughter. The truth was, I thought at the moment, that the lively gentleman was playing some jocose trick, or that, at least, he must be preparing for a masquerade. I found my mistake, for, to prevent any thing worse, Mr. Campbell followed me out of the room, and asked me if I was not aware that Mr. B—— was a clergyman ? I replied that I could not by any possible means have known any such thing. Since then, I have known many grave English gentlemen, apparently leaving their religion and their consciences behind them, when they have

crossed the channel, to be taken up again at their return. I found, indeed, the practice so common, that I learnt, perhaps, too much of it myself, in the events of my future life.

As for my sensations of English morality, or whatever I am to call it, I recollect the first Sunday I spent in London, I thought the people and the day altogether very dull. Having been bred a Catholic, my notions of the sanctification of the seventh day to religious purposes did not prevent me from devoting a part of it to what I had been taught to deem innocent amusements. Accordingly, at the Inn where we happened to be, I began to entertain myself and the domestics in such a way as drew upon me the remarks of the company. Not being myself able to comprehend all that was said, I imagined that my vocal and manual performances gave unmixed satisfaction. In the course of the week, however, I was accosted by a gentleman who could speak French, who asked me how I liked the country, &c.? I replied I "liked it very well, and as for the living, nobody could dislike it." "But," said he, "You were singing and dancing on Sunday." I replied, "Yes, a little, and what of that?" "Oh!" said he, "you must not do so, there is no such thing allowed in England. All amusements are put aside as scrupulously as labour itself, and I assure you, were the King of England himself to wish for a play, or any kind of entertainment, on the Sunday, it would be denied him." I was utterly astonished; but, at the same time, I felt much obliged to the gentleman for his informa-

tion ; for though I did not, at the time, feel convinced of the necessity of the restraint, I possessed a desire to please, as well as a wish to behave with propriety.

Mr. Campbell, though very young, had a commission in the army, being lieutenant in the 11th regiment of Dragoons. His Mother, as I understood, had procured it for him that he might have greater facilities afforded him for becoming acquainted with the world. On leaving London for Chichester, to join his regiment, Mr. Campbell left his tutor behind him.

At Chichester, I recollect being surprised with several customs of the English which I had not before had opportunity of noticing. We lodged at the same Inn with the Major of the regiment, whose name was Warburton, and who was a distant relation, and was expected to act as a kind of guardian to my young master. On the first evening of our arrival, the Major's man invited me to take a glass of brandy with him. With the name of brandy I had long been familiar ; but I shall never forget the uneasy sensations I felt on seeing this Englishman pour the burning liquor down his throat. Instead of sipping it by small quantities, as I had been accustomed to see, he drank it by mouthfuls, and I really expected to see fire blaze out of his mouth !

The maids at our Inn having heard me complain of the coldness of bed-linen since I came to England, surprised me one night by having my bed warmed. This was a source of wonder to me, as well as of pleasurable feeling ; for of the existence

of such a thing as a warming-pan, I had previously had no knowledge.

From Chichester, we removed to Lewes, in Sussex, where the regiment was to prepare, by exercise, for a royal review, which was soon to take place on Blackheath. At Lewes I met with one of my own country women, a native of Antwerp. The way in which I discovered her was singular. In riding along the street with some of the military, I saw her standing at the door of her house. Although I did not know that I had ever seen her before, yet I felt assured that she was sister to an old acquaintance of mine. Riding up to her, I asked her if she did not come from Antwerp? She, not deeming my question put in such circumstances worthy of serious regard, merely asked me in return why I wished to know? I told her that I had known her Father and Brother there. She still seemed inclined to pay little regard to me, and I passed on. The day following she sent for me to her house, and inquired seriously what and whence I was; and having both of us become well satisfied of our old neighbourhood, an acquaintance took place, and I spent much of my spare time while we remained at Lewes, with herself and her husband. This was a real advantage to me, as it prevented me following the example of some others, who spent their time and every farthing of their money at the public house, and, at last, had to leave the town in debt.

While in this military way of life, I had many opportunities of witnessing the graceless pranks

played by the young officers. I will relate one. Mr. Campbell told me one day, that he intended, on the following morning, to go to such a place a fishing. I was glad to hear it, and prepared accordingly. The place mentioned was at the distance of six or seven miles. When we arrived near the spot, we called at a certain Inn to leave our horses, and prepare our tackle. It happened that near this Inn was a rabbit warren. As we had come along the road, we had seen a great quantity of rabbits, which caused my master to say to me, while we were preparing our fishing lines, "D'Amour, I wish we could borrow a gun, and procure powder and shot, I think I should prefer shooting to fishing, after all." "If I try to borrow you a gun," I replied, "I hope you will strictly follow my directions in using it." "What are your directions?" he inquired. "Nay, stay," said I, "till I see if I can fulfil my condition before I stipulate for yours." Accordingly I procured the necessary articles from our host, and instead of taking the water we took the field. As we went, I bade my master, as soon as he had let fly at a group of rabbits, to seem to take no notice of them but to look directly into the air, as if he was shooting at birds, and that I would mark the spot and pick up what he killed afterwards. He followed my directions, and we easily obtained as many rabbits as we could conveniently convey to Lewes.

As it was understood at our quarters that we had been fishing, when my master had got his companions together in the evening he laconically bade

me bring the fish we had caught. Being myself fond of encouraging a joke, and having all our rabbits together in a bag, I brought it into the room and without ceremony shot them out upon the floor. There was a tremendous roar of applause ; and various and pressing inquiries were instantly made as to where and how we had come at them ? When the other young gentlemen heard the truth, they were amazingly well pleased with the joke, and each determined that it should be repeated.

Accordingly, in a very few days a number of them set out on a second excursion. This time I did not accompany them, and I was as well pleased, for I anticipated that they would get into some serious mischief. The morning after, as I was preparing for my master coming down stairs, a plain country looking man came into the house, and inquired for a young gentleman of the name of Campbell. I instantly ran up to his bedroom, and on entering, I told him, "I was afraid they had not been sufficiently cautious in their yesterday's fishing—that they could not have looked in the air according to my directions, as a man had already arrived, making inquiry for him by name, and who, I felt assured, knew something about the transaction." He bade me hold my nonsense and go down stairs, and he would follow me immediately. On my arriving below, another young gentleman, who had been of the party, and who was quartered at another house had come into our room. Taking me aside, he told me the man's business, and bade me return to my master directly, and advise him to make the

matter up, as he had done, by giving the man a guinea. Of course, as our visitor had the law in his own hand, the necessary means of reconciliation were offered ; neither side, I believe, being dissatisfied that the matter came to so amicable a termination.

Major Warburton was a distant relation to Mr. Campbell, and exercised, according to his Mother's desire, a kind of guardian care over him. It was on this account, chiefly, that we were quartered at the same house. As it has already been remarked that I was upon pretty familiar terms with my master, it will not be wondered at that his cavalier relation took umbrage at it. In fact, when I look back at the circumstances, I should very much wonder myself if it had been otherwise ; for I acted, in many respects, more in the capacity of a companion than in that of a servant. I dressed well, for I was very fond of it. I attended plays and concerts along with my master ; and moreover, as singing and dancing were among my chief accomplishments, my company, for the same reasons would not be unacceptable to him.

The end of all this was, the Major, writing to Mr. Campbell's Mother, persuaded her how his son's familiarities with his servant, were alike spoiling himself and rendering all the servants in the regiment dissatisfied. The next news were, I was told by Mr. Campbell, that his Mother was about to send him another servant, and, of course, I must prepare myself, however reluctantly he should part with me, to leave his services. This happened

when I had been with him a little more than a year from my first hiring with him in Normandy.

Directly on Mr. C.'s communicating this news to me, I resolved on making a fresh *début* for a situation in London : but a question arose as to who would believe the character, which, I had no doubt Mr. Campbell would give me, when I had been dismissed under these circumstances. I immediately thought of Captain Carnegie, who was in our regiment, and who knew me well, and who I knew had a Brother in London. Accordingly I went to the Captain without more consideration. On my being called into the room, as I recollect, his servant was dressing his hair, and after I had told him my business he wrote me a letter of introduction to his Brother, Sir David Carnegie, containing his own views of my character and capabilities. The Surgeon of the regiment also, who engaged me to take a parcel in my trunk for a friend of his in town, took occasion, in a private letter which he sent, to speak of me to his friend, and to ask him to assist me to a good situation. Of course, Mr. Campbell gave me a character, as well as a letter to our quondam acquaintance, the clergyman tutor, whom we had left in London : so that if characters and recommendations were calculated to be of any service to me, I had them in abundance.

CHAP. VI.

VARIOUS situations offered me in London.—Interview with Sir David Carnegie.—Engage to accompany his friend, Mr. Mackenzie, on the tour of Europe.—Preparation for our journey.—Reflections on my history.—Proceed from London to Paris.—Interview with my Sister-in-law.—Travel to Dijon.—Mr. Mackenzie's mistrust, with my peremptory proceeding, and full acquittal.—On to Marseilles.—Break down carriage.—Indifferent accommodation.—Journey forward, and dine with the Count de Buffon.—Conversation with the Count.—Gardens, menagerie, &c.

“At what hour to-morrow
Shall I attend your lordship?”

MEASURE FOR MEASURE.

WHEN I arrived in London, I first shewed myself to the tutor, who, as soon as he understood my business, and how matters stood, told me that he had a place ready for me without further trouble, if I chose to take it, but, that *it was in livery*. This circumstance I did not like, and, thanking him for his kindness, I said I would prefer looking about me for a short time. As a further inducement, Mr B. told me that the situation was in the family of a lady where he himself dined every day: that he

had taken occasion to mention me in the lady's company so often, and had given so favourable a report of me, that, although the situation was that of a butler, with the duties of which I could not be expected to be well acquainted, yet that he knew she herself would be willing to take the trouble of teaching me in all in which I should be found deficient. But as there was still *the livery*, I persevered in my resolutions to take time and look about me.

The next personage to whom I attended was the surgeon's friend, who, on reading the letter which I presented him, surprised me also by stating, that he actually even now knew of a place which he should strongly recommend to my acceptance.. On his telling me the particulars, however, I felt in no hurry to engage, but told him that with his leave, I should probably call on him again. In fact, from the first, I had the highest expectations from the interest which I hoped to possess with the brother of Captain Carnegie, and to him I finally presented myself.

It was in the morning when I made my first call at the house of Sir David. On reading his brother's letter, he desired me to call again precisely at two o'clock in the afternoon. When I did so, and while I was waiting to be called up stairs, a rap was heard at the door, and a man-servant who was near me, and who seemingly knew something of my business, said to me in a whisper, "What if the gentleman now coming in, should hereafter be your master?" I directly saw the reason why Sir David had bidden

me to call at two o'clock, and my expectation rose to the tip-toe attitude. The moment after the gentleman had gone up stairs, I was called up also, and from their pleasant mariner, I felt persuaded that I was to succeed. Sir David informed me that his friends name was Mr. Mackenzie, and that he was about to set out to make the grand tour of Europe—that he was in want of a qualified servant to accompany him, and that from what his Brother had written concerning me, as well as from the excellent character which I had brought from my late master they had no doubt but that I should suit him very well ; and he further added, that if I thought well of it, I might mention my terms to Mr. Mackenzie. I felt so pleased with the sudden prospect which this information opened to my imagination, that I had scarcely power to make a proper reply : for, had I sought the whole world over, it was the precise situation, which, before all others, I should have chosen. Recollecting, at the same time, that my offer of services was probably as timely and acceptable to Mr. Mackenzie as his place was suitable to me, I took heart and asked very liberal terms indeed ; which, without the least hesitation, were immediately accepted. My new master directly authorised me to go and order for my own use a new saddle, jackboots, topcoat, jacket, buck-skin breeches, &c. &c., as we were to set out for France on the following Monday.

I have often thought, on reviewing my past life, how sudden and singular some of the turns have been in my affairs. In the present instance,

it was only ten days since I left the service of Ensign Campbell, at Norwich, and in this brief space I had come to London, (personally a perfect stranger to every one, except Mr. B_____,) had sought, and found, to all appearance, and as in fact it proved, an excellent situation, and was actually on my way to the continent! We went direct from London to Paris. At the latter place we were intending to remain but two or three days.

My readers will recollect, that I formerly felt a little pique at my Parisian Brother, on account of his having expressed a slight opinion of me in a letter which he wrote to my mother. This I could never forget: and as we were now on the road to Paris, I inwardly determined that I would take an opportunity of shewing him that he had formed a wrong opinion of me.

Accordingly, on our arrival, I sought my Brother's residence without delay. To my disappointment I found he was not at home. My Sister-in-law was at the time in the establishment of the Duchess of Choiseul, where I had several opportunities of visiting her. She took occasion, indeed, on my account, to invite several of our old and mutual friends to dine and spend the evening in her apartments. I was glad of this arrangement, and now, thought I, is the time for me to *shew off*: in fact, to make an impression, which should convince even my Brother, though himself absent, that I was not the stupid dolt which he appeared to have taken me for.

Accordingly, at the dinner table, I strove, and not without some success, to conduct myself with

the utmost *nonchalance*. I spoke with freedom, assisted my right and left hand neighbours with perfect ease and becoming affability—joked and laughed quite humorously—rallied a couple of old friends present that they had not yet got married, threatening the gentleman, if he did not mind very well, that I should myself supersede him, &c. &c. All this tended to work the impression desired. My sister was perfectly charmed with me, and before the company separated, and when I had just done or said something which pleased her uncommonly well, she complimented me before them all, saying that “she never knew any one so changed,—that I was become quite a man.” “Sister,” said I, looking at her with perfect composure, “I am no more a man now than I was the first time you saw me, except perhaps, that I have acquired a little more knowledge of the world ; I did not at first act as I could have done, because I was afraid you would think me forward, and that I fancied that it was ‘all gold that glittered’ ; I was wishful to establish myself better before I let my highly valued Sister-in-law know my capabilities,—now I have done a little, and hope to do more ; and here,” taking out a purse of gold from my pocket, “here is a portion of the first-fruits of *my own industry*.”

Our next removal was to Dijon, the chief town of Burgundy. Here we remained for the space of three months : which time Mr. Mackenzie employed in perfecting himself in the French language. While here I had opportunities of observing Mr. Mackenzie’s conduct and temper, and had no reason

to be dissatisfied. It had been an agreement between us before we started, that I was to keep a regular account of all monies which I laid out on his account ; and that, whenever we were stationary, I should present my bill once a week. When we had been six or eight weeks at Dijon, as I one day presented my account, he asked me how it was that I had charged him more for the second wine than the first, and more for the third than the second ? From the manner in which he asked these questions, along with other circumstances, I felt at once assured that some one had been attempting to disparage my character, and feeling a little chagrined for the moment I immediately replied, " Whoever, Sir, has caused you to entertain suspicion, has made you promise not to name themselves." It soon appeared that I was right, and his reply was, " How do you know that ? And suppose they have, I don't believe it." " O, Sir !" said I, " but this will not do, give me leave to ring the bell." He would have prevented me, but I persisted ; I told him my character was at stake.

Without leaving the room, therefore, I got the landlord to bring his book, and our accounts corresponded in every respect. As for the wine, our host gave good reason for the different charges, and also proved, that each charge was below the average price. When the landlord had retired, I told Mr. Mackenzie that I felt myself infinitely obliged to him ; and that whenever any one by any means attempted to injure my reputation in his esteem, I hoped he would give me similar oppor-

tunity of clearing myself. I desired him for a moment to consider what a serious thing it would have been on my account, if, while perfectly innocent, I had rested under his unjust suspicion.—After this affair he never manifested the least mistrust; and frequently, when I presented my account he refused to look it over, but merely gave me the necessary supply of money.

When we left Dijon, we removed to Marseilles. In our progress towards the latter place we had the misfortune to break down our carriage. It was evening, and we should have experienced great inconvenience had we not been near a village. I recollect on reconnoitering for accommodations for the night, I could only find one inn in the place, and that of a very inferior description. The best we could procure for supper, after a good deal of trouble, was some eggs and a little butter for my master, whose squeamish appetite left me to the free use of a remnant of ill-cooked veal. We were obliged both to sleep in one room. Mr. Mackenzie, who was rather in a delicate state of health, and utterly inexperienced as to suffering privations, could not help breaking forth in exclamations of discontent. As for myself, I had acquired a little more knowledge of the world, and I made bold to beseech him to have patience, at the same time assuring him, that in all likelihood he would find himself far worse off before he had an opportunity of sleeping in his own bed again in England. And that I was a true prophet, the sequel will abundantly prove.

With the aid of our postillion, I got our carriage

tied and fastened together, so that we were upon the road in good time next morning. As we rode along, my master informed me that he had a letter, which, at our next stage, he should have to present to a certain French lady : that the letter was in English, which she could read but not speak ; and that they should require my services as interpreter in the conversation.

On our arrival I presented the letter, as I was to be spokesman. When she had read it through, she bade me inform my master, how heartily glad she was to see him ; that she kept no house of her own ; that she dined every day with her uncle, and to whose name, she would be bold to say, Mr. Mackenzie was no stranger ; and that she should be happy to introduce him, also, to dine with the great French naturalist, the Count 'de Buffon. It may be conceived that I conveyed this information to my master gladly enough, for I had not only heard of the fame of this illustrious individual, but I was especially gratified with the prospect, on my own part, of being likely to see him, for I well knew that my presence where my master was, would be indispensable.

The Count de Buffon's mansion, seated at the foot of a hill, was what might be considered splendid, and every thing around it in remarkably good taste. Mr. Mackenzie, having been introduced by the Count's niece, was received with all due courtesy. I attended as interpreter to the party. In person the Count was well made and rather corpulent ; and appeared to be about 50 years of age. Various

topics of discourse passed between him and my master at the dinner table ; among the rest, as I remember, the Count recited his own translation of a passage in Milton. Mr. Mackenzie bade me say how much he admired that the Count should be able to translate so well the most difficult of all the English authors, Milton, whilst at the same time he should not be able to speak English. The Count's reply struck me as in the true style of a Frenchman,—“ Tell Mr. Mackenzie, that I believe I have done it as well as it can be done ; but that I am certain the English is the only language in which blank verse can succeed.”

Almost immediately after dinner the Count, as his custom was, retired to his cabinet. On the departure of Buffon, the lady, his niece, proposed a walk into the gardens, which was willingly accepted. We were first led into a proper French *Jardine*, where every thing was in very neat and exact order, with great numbers of evergreens cut into the shapes of different animals, &c. After walking up and down in this spacious garden for some time, we were unexpectedly conducted to the foot of an ascending stair, formed curiously against the side of the hill. By this ascent we were brought to an upper level, comprising the area of a second garden, as spacious and as splendid as the first. “ This,” said our fair guide, “ is an Italian garden.” This delightful enclosure we perambulated with no less pleasure than in the former case ; till we came, unexpectedly again, to the foot of another stair. Up this also we directed our steps, till we found our-

selves on the level of a third area as spacious and as beautiful, though not so artificial as the others. "And this," said the lady, "is an English garden."

Although the flights of steps above named were so curiously contrived as to be invisible until we actually began to ascend, yet nothing could exceed in beauty the free and uninterrupted prospect backward which the highest level afforded. After a sight of the Count's collection of animals and other curious and rare productions of nature which he has so admirably described in his Natural History, we took our departure.

CHAP. VII.

JOURNEY to Marseilles.—Antibes.—Meet with travelling companions from England.—Proceed to Nice.—Florence.—See Charles Stuart, the Pretender.—Journey to Rome.—Its topographical situation, monuments, and public places.—Journey to Naples.—News from England.—Captain Campbell leaves us, after attempting in vain to take me along with him.—We proceed to Caprea.—Stromboli.—Isle of Vulcan.—Arrive at Palermo.—Travel through Sicily.—Ancient grandeur of the country.—Poor accommodations.—Sail to Malta.—Scale Mount Etna.—Return to Palermo.

“ With thee my bark, I'll swiftly go,
Athwart the foaming brine ;
Nor care what land thou bear'st me to,
So not again to mine.

Welcome, welcome, ye dark blue waves !
And when ye fail my sight,
Welcome ye deserts and ye caves,
My native land—good night !”

CHILDE HAROLD.

AFTER leaving the Count D'Buffon, we encountered nothing remarkable till we reached Marseilles. There I saw a number of galley slaves of the old French dynasty; they all appeared hard at work in ships and various other situations, each chained

to his shop, wheelbarrow, or whatever else he was employed about. Some of these unfortunate individuals, as we were given to understand, had been doomed thus to suffer, for very trivial acts of delinquency indeed, as the shooting a bird in the King's grounds. Nor had the victims of tyranny been selected from people circumstanced in low life only, watch makers were following their business in chains, and many of genteel appearance were toiling in captivity. They were put on board galleys every night.

From Marseilles we proceeded to Antibes, the small seaport at which Buonaparte since landed on his return from Egypt. And here we had the unspeakable gratification of meeting, according to previous appointment, my master's friend, and my ex-patron, Sir David Carnegie, as well as my old master, now Captain Campbell. What afforded peculiar satisfaction was, that these gentlemen, with their servants, were intending to be our companions right away to Sicily, and even to the Holy Land, had not unforeseen circumstances prevented us from fulfilling our original design.

It was in the latter end of February when we were at Antibes, and I was much surprised to see the English sailors, who happened to be at that port, busy bathing themselves in the sea. Antibes is in the most southern part of France, and the comparative warmth of the climate rendered this early bathing agreeable to the more northern English.

From Antibes we went to Nice, where, as travelling any farther by land was impossible on account

of the hills, we took our carriage to pieces, stowed it on board a vessel, and proceeded by sea to Genoa. I have nothing particular to remark concerning this ancient town, only, that the houses are remarkably splendid in their outside appearance, but the streets are singularly narrow. Embarking again to prosecute our voyage, we had not proceeded far, ere the sailors, who were glad of any excuse to prolong their services, persuaded our gentlemen to put into a small harbour, at the extremity of which, a little town, the name of which I do not recollect, lies surrounded by almost perpendicular and stupendous hills. The place had a most romantic appearance. It was but very seldom that the inhabitants saw strangers, for as it was impossible these should approach them excepting by sea, and as they carried on no kind of trade to allure foreigners, of course curiosity alone would not induce every one to pay them a visit.

After a short stay in this place, we again took to our vessel, and after sailing a few miles further we disembarked, took post horses, put our carriage together, and rode on towards Florence. Here we visited the celebrated picture gallery belonging to the Grand Duke of Tuscany, containing, among its precious rarities, "The statue which enchanteth the world," the famous Venus de Medici. I need scarcely inform my readers, that many of the choice specimens of the fine arts here collected, were afterwards taken to France by Buonaparte, but were eventually restored to their legitimate owners, at the instance of the allied Sovereigns

after the peace. At the time we were there, a great number of painters and others, from different countries, were employed taking copies, for, unlike what is the use in England, they were open to the inspection of all.

At Florence, also, I had the singular gratification of obtaining a sight of the celebrated Charles Stuart, the Pretender to the British Crown. It was about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, when he was taking his accustomed walk, surrounded by a few of his old and faithful Scotch and English adherents. He was at this time advanced in life; was tall and bent forward; he still wore at his breast the blue ribbon of royalty.

Here, also, we visited the Cathedral, built of white marble, and adorned with a profusion of famous statuary. We saw the far-famed marble group, representing St. Laurence, and his executioner; altogether, perhaps, one of the most striking pieces of workmanship ever exhibited. One knows not which most to admire, the artist's skill in representing the patience of the Saint, the cruel appearance of the executioner, or the physiognomy of the human frame under the dreadful circumstances.

During our stay at Florence, our gentlemen were presented to the Grand Duke. The only curiosity which I recollect in connection with the Court, was that his Highness had in his household a most clever improvisatrice. The lady could compose, when desired, a song, with a suitable tune, and sing the same in excellent style, on any subject which

could be proposed, and without the least premeditation.

From Florence we proceeded to Sienna, and without stopping, onward to Rome, intending to be there in Easter week. The great city, as has often been told, is situated on a cluster of inconsiderable hills, which rise in the midst of a large plain. The plain itself is surrounded by a circle of hills which rise in the distance. This singular topographical situation of Rome, gives to its climate some peculiarities which are not always in favour of the health of its inhabitants. As, for instance, when the wind blows from a particular point, the clouds settle on the distant mountains, forming a kind of impenetrable curtain round the city, which prevents the air from circulating; and it is no uncommon thing for the people to be so oppressed by the heat, that all business ceases, till by another change of the wind they are set at liberty.

We entered Rome by what is called "Porto del Popolo," or, "The Gate of the People." The entrance possessed an inconceiveable air of grandeur, and fully justified what the poet said near two thousand years ago :—

" But Rome ! 'tis thine alone, with awful sway
To rule mankind, and make the world obey,
Disposing peace and war thy own majestic way ;
To tame the proud, the fettered slave to free,
These are imperial arts, and worthy thee."

Passing two obelisks of Egyptian granite, besides many other objects to engage our wonder, we came to the more crowded part of the city. It was in

the middle of the afternoon when we arrived ; a time of day when all the genteel people were in the habit of riding backward and forward through the streets in open carriages to take the air. As one train of vehicles passed along one side of the street, and another train the opposite way along the other side, there was no such thing as one outgoing another, but we were obliged to go slowly along in the procession, though much against our inclination. The place of our destination, at which we arrived in due time, was the hotel of the Marquess Carrao. The mansion was an ancient one, and of a singular construction, and it will not surprise my readers so much as it surprised me to be told, that this our lodging-house, while we remained in the imperial city, was the identical place where Augustus Cæsar is said to have been buried.

Although our purpose was not to stay in Rome at present, but to call again on our return, yet we visited a few of the most important places, as St. Peter's Church, the Amphitheatre, Trajan's Pillar, &c. These have been so often described, and so much better than I can do it, that it would be folly in me to profess to add any thing to the information which is, or might be, in the hands of every one. The effect, however, of my first entrance into the vast space under the Dome of St. Peter's, a period of fifty years has been utterly insufficient to efface. This sacred enclosure is so large, that the fine specimens of statuary and paintings which it contains, in order to bear any proportion, are necessarily of gigantic magnitude ; nevertheless,

one of these statues, seen from one end of the room to the other, appears no more than the representation of an infant. I recollect, on my first entrance, that my conductor asked me, of how large a size I supposed that figure to be, which seemed to stand not far from where we were?—I answered, perhaps as large as a child of four months. On walking up to it, however, I found the distance more than I had imagined, and the thigh of the figure was as large as an ordinary man's body. This comparison may seem to some to be out of place—but it really did not appear to me to be hyperbolical to assert that three or four cathedrals like our St. Paul's, at London, might have room to dance a reel in the church of St. Peter at Rome! The tomb of St. Peter is immediately under the centre of the dome. Over the tomb is the high altar, at which the Pope celebrates mass. We saw his Holiness carried by the Cardinals, to the Cathedral on Holy Thursday, for this purpose, amidst a vast concourse of spectators. The grandeur of the ceremony cannot be conceived.

The ancient amphitheatre is of immense size; the area, it is said, has contained 80,000 people sitting. It was originally built for the gladiatorial combats, and other public shows. No mind which has not had the experience can conceive the sensations which are felt, while a person imagines himself to be treading or sitting on the very spot where we may suppose have breathed, and sat, and stood such individuals as Cicero, Virgil, some of the Cæsars, and possibly several of the first Apostles of Christianity. I was little less amazed with a view

of Trajan's Pillar. It stands on a large pedestal, and overlooks all Rome. There is a winding staircase up the inside to the top of the pillar. On its summit stands a figure thirty-six feet high. The history of the war of Trajan against the Dacians is cut in Basso Relievo round the sides of the pillar ; it stands very conspicuously at the junction of several large streets.

As it was our intention to visit Sicily, and even the Holy Land itself, before our return, had we not been prevented, we only remained in Rome for the present, eight days. From Rome we passed to Naples, where we merely halted to provide ourselves with necessaries for our tour round Sicily. The necessity of this may appear strange, but the fact was, we were obliged to take with us, not only our beds, bedsteads, all sorts of linen, &c., but even the greatest part of our provisions. It is true, the Italians furnished us with a very portable sort of bedstead, as will be understood when I assert, that four of them, with the necessary quantity of bedding, were all conveyed upon the back of one mule with a man into the bargain. The city of Naples, as is well known, is built at the head of its celebrated Bay, in the form of a half moon. The ground on which the town is built, gradually rises from the margin of the sea backwards ; so that all the houses command a very pleasant view of the Bay. The houses are flat roofed ; an opening through the roof admits the inhabitant to the top, where he can enjoy the sea-breeze in the evening.

While we were preparing to leave Naples, we

received the unwelcome intelligence that Captain Campbell must repair back to England with all speed to join his regiment. The cause of the military bustle was, that France had given offence to the English Government by acknowledging the independence of America. Of course there was no alternative, and the Captain was obliged to leave us. Before parting, he strongly urged me to accompany him, which I peremptorily refused to do. I told him that as Mr. Mackenzie was a good master, and withal, as our manner of life was peculiarly agreeable to me, it would be folly indeed for me to think of acceding to his proposal. In return, he offered me very liberal wages, and intimated the altered condition of his own affairs, and that he was not now dependent on the will of others. In short, he was so importunate, that I gave him leave, if he liked, to ask my master if he would consent to part with me, and I told him that the event should hang upon Mr. Mackenzie's decision. He did as I desired, and, as was to be expected under the circumstances, Mr. M. refused to let me go, and there was an end of it.

From Naples, therefore, the rest of us sailed away to the Island of Capræ, from whence, at night, we could very easily see the ancient volcanic island of Stromboli, though distant one hundred miles. Towards the latter place we steered our course on leaving Capræ. Our voyage was performed in a boat about seven yards long by two wide, and propelled by eight oars and a steersman. Stromboli has the appearance of nothing but a large hill

rising out of the sea : notwithstanding, it contained a good many inhabitants. The hill itself is continually burning, but more on one side than the other.

As we made it a point to leave no curiosity unexplored, we landed and ascended this singular mountain. What appeared to me very wonderful was, we found, half way up, a well containing good water, only rather warm, like most of the water throughout Sicily itself. We also visited the Island of Vulcan, or Volcano Island, on the margin of which, at some points, the water of the ocean was quite hot. It appeared evident too, that there had been burning islands in the neighbourhood, which had consumed themselves away, leaving perhaps a single relic rising out of the water like the ruins of an old castle, or like a dilapidated cathedral.

Having explored these islands, we set sail for Palermo. This ancient and well-known town is situated on the northern side of Sicily : and here we provided a few more necessaries for our Sicilian tour, intending to cross the island to the south, and then to proceed down the southern coast till we came opposite to Malta. The route we were about to take contained few or no roads, and not many inhabitants ; but by the way, we expected to find a number of ruins, significant indications of what the country had been in the days of yore.

Having obtained guides and mules, and got all things ready, we started. Our manner of proceeding along the coast of Sicily, was, partly by land, and partly by sea. Whenever the shore was likely

to yield any thing worthy of observation, we sent a number of natives along with the boats, with orders to meet us at a specified place; and when we chose to sail, the guides took charge of our mules and land carriage, and met us in like manner. In general, the natives proved faithful to their engagements, especially if we took the precaution to withhold their wages till all their work was accomplished. We lodged of course, as, and where we could ; sometimes in the ruins which we met with, and here and there in a small town or village. On one occasion, we made our abode for a few days and nights in a monastery of Capuchins, the monks of which were very kind to us.

We found every where upon our route, tokens of ancient grandeur and magnificence, but of present dilapidation and ruin. And many a time, when I had no one to speak with upon the subject, my silent wonder has been highly excited, to think that such apparent national grandeur should have sunk into such depths of oblivion.

It was in this route that my master found the truth of my prognostications concerning the privations he must expect to experience. My readers may remember how he murmured when we could get nothing better than fresh butter and new-laid eggs. In this journey we had brought with us some Dutch butter from Palermo, of a quality which an Englishman would scarcely deem good enough for common grease, and now he frequently made me smile, by telling me, when setting out our plain meal, that whatever I wasted, I must be careful of

the butter, as it was almost the only thing he could eat.

Neither our sea nor land travelling, was altogether without fear of enemies ; to avoid which, when at sea, we always took care to keep near the shore, and when on land we had a guide that rode a little before, and another man at a distance behind. We arrived at last opposite Malta, and prepared to sail across. Having engaged some natives to assist us over, we had intended to start early in the morning. Our guides, however, were very dilatory about it, and instead of mustering, spent the fore part of the day in playing at bowls, and we could not by any means prevail upon them to proceed. At last, I went up to them in a pet, and asked them what they meant ? They replied they had their reasons. My master heard us, and bade me say no more at present, but question them on the subject when we got to Malta. Towards evening they began very deliberately to prepare for the voyage, and we got at liberty. Our narrow vessels, under the management of the Sicilians, cut the sea like dolphins. I never saw better sailing in my life. We got to Malta by four o'clock in the morning, and when I asked the men the reason of their disobedient conduct concerning sailing earlier, they confessed they were afraid of the Algerine pirates, and wished to sail under cover of the night, but that they did not tell us for fear of discouraging us.

Malta, as every one knows, is an island chiefly important for its maritime situation, and its impregnable means of defence. It was during the

last war with France, alternately in the hands of the French and the English. It is a flat rock, with a most singularly convenient and strongly protected harbour. It is renowned in ancient history as the place at which St. Paul and his companions were shipwrecked. (See Acts.) Our stay at Malta was little more than a week. We had no occasion, however, to hasten our departure from any want of civility in the inhabitants, for we were remarkably well attended to. Our gentlemen were presented, during our stay, to the Grand Master, who received them with all possible politeness, and as, by means of spy glasses, it had been ascertained that Algerine vessels were in the vicinity, before we returned, he ordered his galleys out to scour the sea. These, of course were commanded by candidates for knighthood, and they did not fail on this occasion to bring in several suspicious vessels.

On our leaving Malta, we made the best sail we could towards Catania, from whence we started, twenty-four of us, to scale Mount Etna. As the country people had a superstitious idea that its top was the mouth of hell, they looked upon our excursion as a most unaccountable and presumptuous adventure. It was four o'clock in the morning when we started; we were well provided with guides, provisions and mules, for the scaling of Mount Etna is no trifling concern. My master put it to my own choice whether or no I should accompany them: I replied I should be very sorry, if, after coming to the foot of so celebrated a mountain, I should be prevented from ascending it. He

bade me, then, be sure to put on the warmest clothes I had. I had heard tell of the cold on Mount Etna, but, as it was exceedingly warm at its base, I could scarcely credit it. However, I, like the rest of the party, adopted the precaution. By the time we had got a little above half way up, it was ten o'clock at night, and the cold was very severe indeed. In passing through a wood we halted awhile, and kindled a fire to warm ourselves. On our leaving the wood we encountered a large quantity of snow, and, as the ascent was steep, we had much ado to keep ourselves seated on our mules. For my own part, the one which I rode had become so thin with fatigue and fasting, and I was so benumbed with cold, that, with sticking to the mane while the animal was climbing, I actually lost the saddle behind! The change of temperature which we experienced had a most depressing effect on our spirits, so that our march, when we could preserve any thing like order, was for silence and solemnity, more like a funeral procession than any thing else.

Mr. Mackenzie, not being in a good state of health, was exhausted before we reached the summit of the mountain, and was obliged to halt and to wait our return. When we came to the edge of the immense crater, we saw little or no flame, and it was impossible to make any observations on its depth or width, on account of the prodigious volumes of smoke which were emitted. There are some occasions when instances of the sublime in nature have an almost overpowering effect on the mind,

and this was one of those instances. The grandeur was well nigh more than could be borne. By the very height of the mountain we seemed to be far separated from our fellow creatures upon earth, and all earthly concerns. Standing on the edge of a precipice whose depths below, eternally vomiting fire and smoke, gave no inadequate idea of that place—

“ Into whose wild abyss, the wary fiend
Stood on the brink of hell and look'd awhile.”

We descended far more rapidly than we ascended, and by the time we came to the wood, we were most of us very hungry. About two-thirds of the way down we called at a convent, where the Monks, without our requesting it, provided us basins of water in which to wash our eyes, which were all sore and bloodshot with the smoke and small cinders that floated in the air at the top of the mountain ; here also we were kindly provided with plenty of good wine ; as for eatables we had enough of our own.

Having done with Mount Etna, we re-embarked at Catania for the Straits of Messina. For a long way up these Straits our vessels had to be hauled by oxen on account of a strong opposing current. Clearing the Straits we made the best of our way to Palermo, wishing to be at the latter place to witness the celebration of the famous festival of St. Rosaline.

CHAP. VIII.

FEAST OF St. Rosaline.—Singular customs at Palermo.—Naples.—Ascent of Mount Vesuvius.—Eruption.—Return to Rome.—Italian names.—Loretto.—Mantua.—Venice and its carnival.—Parma, Piacentia, and Turin.—The Alps.—The Female Valet and her exploits.

"And nothing pleaseth but rare accidents."

HENRY IV.

By this time my readers will be ready to allow that I have, in one way or other, seen a little of the world ; but of all the showy exhibitions which ever met my senses, the scenes which I witnessed at the feast of St. Rosaline exceeded them all.

In the city of Palermo there are two main streets, said to be each a mile long. These streets cross each other in the middle, and at right angles. Being of a great width, and the houses having all balconies in front, the town is peculiarly adapted for illuminations, processions, &c. The festival lasted eight successive days. The first day was occupied by the processional exhibition of a most splendid representation of the "Mountain of the Muses," which was a huge artificial mound, covered with rural and picturesque scenery, inhabited by a number of

shepherds and others, to the amount of forty, all playing music, or engaged in some other rural amusement. The mountain was very large: its sides reached to the level of the ground, so that no wheels, or any thing belonging to a car, could be seen. Its progress through the streets occupied a whole day. This, however, was not the only object of attention during the day. Provisions were distributed to the poor in various parts of the town, and here and there a large hogshead of wine, which had been fixed overhead for the purpose, was set a flowing, and any person who chose might hold their vessels and partake of the generous beverage. In the evening the whole town was beautifully illuminated; not in the way practised in England, but by arches adorned with variegated lamps, and projecting from the houses in front of the balconies.

On the following day there was a different procession, wherein long trains of gaily dressed inhabitants passed between constantly flowing fountains of streaming and brilliant fireworks. On a succeeding day there were horse races in the streets; the jockeys riding without either saddle or bridle. When the animal was at full speed, with the rider lengthwise on its back, the latter seemed literally to fly. Again, on another day, the representation of a splendid palace, and opposite to it a fort, occupied the chief attention of the spectators. These were fixed towards the upper end of one of the streets already mentioned, the lower end of which looked towards the sea. When the populace were assembled, and the time for the exhibitions arrived,

fire seemed to rise out of the ocean and gradually to gather upon the town. By degrees it proceeded up the street, manifesting various sights and sounds as it moved slowly along. At length bomb-shells, flying through the air, alighted in the fort already named, giving sudden alarm to its inmates, who were busily engaged in various festivities. As the fort was consuming, a pigeon flew from the fortification to the neighbouring palace, having fire in its beak, and ignited a certain part of the combustibles of which the fabric was composed. Innumerable fire-works then successively exploded, the going off of which occupied a considerable space of time. In the front of the palace was a kind of magnificent arch, composed entirely of rockets to the number of 800 ; these towards the latter end of the exhibition, taking fire at each base of the arch, and exploding rapidly on both sides till they met in the centre, had an effect which must be inconceivable to those who have never witnessed such a spectacle. I really shuddered, and thought of the last tremendous day. On the eighth day, the car containing the "Mountain of the Muses" returned through the streets in the same processional manner, and the final burning of it was the finishing of the festival.

I am particularly desirous that my readers should understand, that I do not profess to give any thing more than a very faint idea of these exhibitions and ceremonies. To have an adequate conception of them a person should be upon the spot. I recollect some years after I had returned to England, in conversing with a gentleman on the subject,

on being asked to describe these ceremonies, I told him I could do no such thing, for they were utterly indescribable. His answer was—"Now you have fully convinced me that you have been there indeed, and are no impostor; I have seen them myself, and had you said you could describe the festival of St. Rosaline, I should have doubted your veracity."

Several of the customs of the inhabitants of Palermo deserve notice had I room. I cannot, however, refrain from alluding to those in reference to marriage. I am not aware whether the fifty years which have passed since I was there have wrought any material change, but at that period the women mixed very little with the men. The opportunities which the latter had of choosing associates for life, were not of every day occurrence. Supposing a young gentleman should have sometimes seen the daughter of a respectable citizen walking on the balcony of her father's house, and should have taken a fancy to her, he has no opportunity of consulting her on the subject. The preliminary step is to seek out a female Pandarus, in the form of some old woman, of which there are plenty in the place. To this important personage he must make known his love, and its object. She, for a reasonable consideration, undertakes to convey a notification of his flame (under cover, of course,) to the father of the damsel. The old woman must be provided with the gentleman's name, quality, and references as to how his character may be inquired into. The father receives the go-between as he would any other messenger on a matter of business,

and if he happen to have a favourable impression of the aspiring youth, stipulations are entered into for a visit. It is not, however, till the second or third call that the young couple are admitted into each other's company ; the young lady's mother, even then, always taking care to seat herself betwixt them, and it is very rare indeed that they are allowed to converse together till the day of marriage. The above account may be fully relied on, as I not only had it from general conversation, but also particularly from a fellow-countryman of my own, whom I accidentally met at Palermo, and who had himself gone through the ceremony.

Although Palermo was full of carriages and vehicles of various sorts, there was not one to be seen of any kind two miles distant from the town, on account of there being no roads. Every where in Sicily, when we met with a few inhabitants, they gazed at us as though we had dropped from the heavens, or at least, as if they had never seen a stranger in their lives. On our leaving Palermo, we sailed direct for Naples.

Whilst at Naples, our gentlemen were introduced to the King. We happened also to be there on his Majesty's birth day, on which occasion we attended the magnificent theatre of St. Carlo, said to be the largest in the world. The actors were all, or most of them, Eunuchs. To give an idea of the vast size of the place, I may mention, that though I sat about the middle of the pit, I could not hear a word from the feminine voices of the actors. To

me it was all dumb show. Since that period, this theatre has unfortunately been burnt down.

We also visited Mount Vesuvius. This celebrated mountain is about eight miles from the city. We rode on mules up a long and gradual ascent till we came to the more steep part of the mountain. Here we were obliged to dismount, and traverse the hill-side on foot. The ascent was so precipitous, that had it been hard like common ground, we should not have been able to have clambered up ; but as its surface was composed chiefly of soft ashes which had been emitted from the crater at the top, during the lapse of many years, we could, by striking our feet into its substance, raise ourselves by slow degrees. The top of the immense hill is scooped out in the form of a basin. In the middle of the hollow rises another hill in the form of a pyramid, and it is out of the top, and sometimes from the sides of this smaller one, that smoke, and cinders, and fire issue. While we were walking round the rim, as I may call it, of the hollowed top of the first hill, (for ascending the pyramidal one was out of the question,) all on a sudden a most dreadful noise issued from within, and presently a clattering of stones was heard far above us in the air. Some of our party were actually about to precipitate themselves down the side of the mountain to save themselves from instant death ; but when they saw our guides clapping their hands and shewing other emotions of pleasure, their fears in some measure subsided. I recollect one of our party who had a

small portion of Gloucester cheese in his pocket, which article was to be bought at Naples, tried the experiment of toasting it in the crevice of a rock which we found of extraordinary heat, and the process of cooking soon being complete, we each partook of a share of it, being desirous of being able to say we had eaten Gloucester cheese at the top of Mount Vesuvius, and toasted by its natural fires.

After our excursion to the mountain, we visited the celebrated Grotto del Cani, where, to entertain visitors, dogs, which are kept at the place, are alternately suffocated almost to death by offensive vapour, and revived again by being plunged in water. We also visited the place where it is said the remains of the immortal Virgil lie interred, a little way out of Naples.

The people of Naples were much in the habit of turning night into day, and *vice versa*. Indeed, with such as attended the theatre and other places of amusement, this must necessarily be the case, as the time for the commencement of the entertainments was generally ten o'clock at night. After the theatre, we sometimes, before we retired to bed, took a bath in the sea. One morning about two o'clock, whilst several of our party were so occupied, an eruption took place on Mount Vesuvius. They, of course, hastened to our lodgings, and waking us, communicated the intelligence. We all walked out to see the spectacle. The eruption continued several days and nights, torrents of melted lava running down the sides of the mountain, so that when we left Naples for Rome, which we did

one evening, the fire of the mountain lighted us many miles on our way.

On arriving at Rome, our attention was soon directed to a newly discovered curiosity. In digging beneath the ground, perhaps for the purpose of making a cellar, or something similar, a large pillar had just been discovered of the length of thirty-six feet. It was laid horizontally along with its pedestal. I do not recollect whether any thing was known of its origin, but the authorities of the city had a wooden pillar erected of the same form and size, at a certain junction of several streets, to try its effect, and finding the plan would answer, advertisements were issued, and a sum of money offered for the conveying and erection of the pillar. The enterprise, I believe, was undertaken whilst we were in Rome, by a young architect, but how he succeeded I never heard.

I was often puzzled whilst in Italy, with the people commonly using no surnames. To avoid this inconvenience, in addressing a letter, or giving verbal directions, they have recourse to various expedients by which it is possible to identify an individual : as for instance—"Mr Peter, such a street, such a story, next door to jeweller."—Or, "Mrs. Margaret, next door but one to pastry cook," &c.

On finally leaving Rome we travelled on to Loretto, famous for its chapel of the Virgin, said to have been brought from the Holy Land, and for the pilgrims who resort thither from all parts of Catholic Christendom. The chapel contained, among a prodigious mass of treasures, some rich offerings

presented in early times by the Kings and Queens of England. From thence we went on to Mantua ; the birth place of Virgil, long since immortalized in the writings of that poet, and the celebrated Horace. It is a town of great antiquity ; the streets are very narrow, and the surrounding country being swampy, it is accessible only by means of a raised causeway, which was the chief obstacle to its being taken by the French in the late war, when they could not take Mantua by any other means, except by starvation. From Mantua we proceeded to Venice.

This famous city, which was at that time an independent Republic, is literally built on the sea, an incredible number of piles having been driven for a foundation. It stands out several miles into the Adriatic. We saw its arsenal containing some very large pieces of cannon, which had been taken from the Turks. The persevering inhabitants have taken singular advantages of their situation to render internal communication convenient and easy. They have alternately a land street, and if I may so express myself, a *water street*. The land street of course, is the place in which they reside ; and for a person to attempt to go to any specified place by land, notwithstanding the place might be within sight, and not more than one or two hundred yards distant, the journey might be two or three miles ! However, what he has to do is to call for a gondola, a small kind of boat, and for a very trifling sum he will be there in two or three minutes.

Were I able, or had it been my intention to have

given any thing like a particular account of places, Venice deserves a whole chapter of description. I scruple not to assert, that, with regard to its origin, its situation, its history, and its polity, it is the most remarkable city in the world. If I should happen to have a young reader who has not hitherto read any one of the many accounts given of it in English travellers, let me tell them it is well worthy of their attention.

“ I stood in Venice, on the bridge of sighs ;
A palace and a prison on each hand ;
I saw from out the wave her structures rise,
As from the stroke of an enchanter’s wand ;
A thousand years their cloudy wings expand
Around me, and a dying glory smiles
O’er the far times, when many a subject land
Look’d to the winged Lion’s marble piles,
Where Venice sat in state, throned on her hundred Isles.”

We were singularly fortunate in our travels in happening to be present when extraordinary circumstances occurred, or at the famous festivals and ceremonies. At Venice we were present at the celebrated Carnival. We attended the theatre and other places of resort and amusement ; and, as is usual, we all went masked. It is customary for the people, during this masking season, to address each other as of the highest possible rank, as “ Your Excellency,” &c., because, not being supposed to know each other, it is taken for granted that such may be the case. They also addressed each other on these occasions by the appellation of “ Noble Venetians.” We were advised to refrain

from conversing on the subject of politics while we were there ; which advice we thought it prudent scrupulously to comply with.

From Venice we travelled to Parma and Placentia. After we had passed the latter place, our gentlemen in the carriage, and myself on horseback, I observed some hills before us, which I saw we must necessarily pass over. At the first sight of them I thought we should have been there in a few hours, but was surprised when we had travelled a considerable way further, that they seemed as distant as ever. I said nothing to any one, not being willing to expose my own ignorance. We journeyed all the next day with the hills still before us, which appeared, indeed, to increase in height and steepness as we moved forward, so that I inwardly wondered how we should get over them. On the third day of my wondering, although we had travelled forward without intermission, we still had not arrived at the hills, but having them yet in front of us, we very comfortably arrived at Turin, the capital of the kingdom of Sardinia.

After remaining at Turin eight days, we set out to cross the Alps, which had been so long before us. The place where we crossed was called Sene. Our carriage was taken to pieces and carried over by men and mules. We found it no small degree of labour to climb these celebrated mountains. Coming, however, after much labour, to the top, we found upon the level an Inn, with the sign of the Red Cross ; here we called to refresh ourselves.

I had heard, before we came to this Inn, of a

celebrated curiosity connected with it, and concerning which I resolved to make inquiry upon the spot. The landlady, as I had been told, and as I actually found, had spent many years as a sort of valet in the retinue of an Italian Prince, disguised in male attire. I asked her many questions upon the subject, and particularly, as to how it was she was never discovered; in answer to which she told me as follows.

She declared that, though she had all along mixed with the company of both men and women, yet her sex was never, to her own knowledge, suspected, until an incident gave rise to the discovery, when she could not have prevented it but at the sacrifice of her own life.

She was always, she said, fond of the company of women, and, for the sake of enjoying it the more freely, she actually pretended, sometimes, to practice gallantry with the young ones. Not unfrequently she bought them ribbons and other trifles. At last, however, she entered on a more dangerous enterprize; for, without any pretence of gallantry, but merely from friendly feeling, she had acquired a familiar acquaintance with a married lady. With this female she used frequently to associate and converse on various subjects. One summer evening they happened to take a walk together in the fields, and had actually seated themselves on a grassy bank while they finished some piece of discourse in which they were engaged. It appears that the lady's husband, who had begun to entertain jealousy of the parties, heard of their being to-

gether, and, repairing to the spot, in the heat of his passion, drew a dagger, and would have plunged it into the bosom of his supposed guilty rival, had she not instantly, by opening her waistcoat and laying her breasts bare, revealed the important secret.

It was impossible that a circumstance of such a nature should be kept secret by more than one individual. It soon became known, even to the Prince, in whose establishment our heroine had long lived. She was summoned into his presence, where she had to give an account of her whole history. The Prince settled a pension upon her for life, but of course she had from thenceforth to discard her male attire.

When I had heard the above account from the woman's own lips, I ventured to intimate that I thought it extremely curious that she should never be found out, and particularly as she was not one of the most robust, even of the weaker sex.

"Then," says she, "you suppose you would have found me out."

"Yes," I replied, "I have little doubt of it."

"A gentleman," she said, "who happened to stay at this house, for a few days, a short time ago, was as confident as you seem to be, and declared his conviction that no female could deceive him in a similar manner. I made no more to do, but on leaving his company, I retired to my own room, where I dressed myself in a suit of my discarded apparel; it happened that there was a person at hand who could dress my hair fashionably; and

being thus metamorphosed, I got myself ushered into the presence of this self-confident gentleman. His valet happened to be dressing his master's hair when I was introduced. I made my debut to the valet, whom, professing to recognize, I addressed as follows :—

“Sir, I am come to your order.” The man gave me a vacant stare. I continued :—

“You recollect telling me at —— Inn, in Geneva, that master was in want of a servant.”

The master turning himself round, looked first at me, then at his servant, hastily inquiring of the latter, ‘Did you engage him?’

“No, Sir,” said the valet, “I never, to my knowledge, saw him before in my life.”

“It is singular, there has been some mistake,” continued the master, “and have you come all the way from Geneva?”

“Most assuredly,” I replied.

“Well,” added the gentleman, “all we can do, is to pay the man's expenses, I want no servant.”

“I concluded the scene,” said this singular woman, “by laughing and saying, ‘I thought, Sir, you would not have been so easily deceived, but that you would have known me.’” He raised his hands in astonishment, after which, he promised that he would not be so confident in future.

CHAP. IX.

Descent from the Alps.—Towns in Switzerland.—The Netherlands.—Brussels.—Antwerp.—Affectionate Interview with Father and Mother.—Travel through France.—Embark for England.—Arrive in London. Leave Mr. Mackenzie.—Broad-brimmed Hats.—Introduction to Major Warburton.—His singular scheme to get me into his service.—My year and half's servitude with the Major.—His irritable temper.—Our quarrel and final separation.—My engagement with a new Master.

"O, when shall I visit the land of my birth,
The loveliest land on the face of the earth ?
When shall I those scenes of affection explore,
Our forests, our fountains,
Our hamlets, our mountains,
With the pride of our mountains, the maid I adore ?
O, when shall I dance on the daisy-white mead,
In the shade of an elm, to the sound of a reed ?
When shall I return to that lowly retreat
Where all my fond objects of tenderness meet,—
The lambs and the heifers that follow my call,
My father, my mother,
My sister, my brother,
And dear Isabella, the joy of them all ?
O, when shall I visit the land of my birth ?
—'Tis the loveliest land on the face of the earth."

MONTGOMERY.

OUR descent from the Alps was curious. The upper part of the mountains being covered with snow, and the snow being hard, we were provided

with a sledge for each of us ; in which sledge having seated ourselves, a charioteer, as I shall call him, mounted in front, with his feet upon the snow, and in his hands a staff. All being prepared, the man by raising his feet, let us at liberty, and down we drove. And, truly, I thought our velocity extremely dangerous ; for the mountain, whose other side took us half a day to ascend, we descended in just thirteen minutes ! The confident guide, of course, takes all the care he can ; making good use of all his steering tackle, and travellers generally come down without injury, though not always without alarm, for I saw a man with hair as white as wool, it having become so, it was said, from the fright he received on a similar descent.

Having passed the Alps, we soon arrived at Geneva ; not failing to admire the beautiful scenery of its celebrated lake. We also visited Berne and Shafhausen, and eventually came to the Netherlands. We made a short stay at Brussels. While here, I attended my master to see the Ducal Palace, where we saw many curiosities ; among the rest, we were conducted into a room composed entirely of silvered glass ; even the door was of the same material ; so that a strange person, shut in, would actually not know, excepting by the touch, the dimensions of the room, its appearance being boundless. Neither would he know the way out again. After we had been very minutely shown the palace, with the spacious gardens, and menagerie, &c. my master offered to reward our conductor with a guinea, which the man peremptorily

refused, saying he durst by no means take it. My master pressed him, and told him no one would see it. "Yes," said the man with singular honesty, "I should see it."

My master and fellow-travellers proposed, before we came to Antwerp, that they would remain there a day or two, entirely on my account. This arrangement gave me very great satisfaction, as I was anxious to see and converse with my aged parents. They, of course, were extremely glad to see me, and we did not fail to make the best use of our time while together.

My Mother being little less than fifty years of age when I was born, and I being her youngest child living, it may be supposed that she possessed no common share of parental affection towards me. She embraced me with tenderness, and repeatedly told me that my long separation from her had been a source of more pain to her than any other circumstance. I could not avoid tears myself, and especially as I had a strong presentiment that it would be our last interview.

My Mother, as I have before stated, was always fond of reading, and, before I left home, I had, thousands of times, been entertained with the repetition of the interesting stories of foreign countries, &c. which she had collected from books. And I well remember that I now repeated to her each of my own adventures, which tended to confirm or illustrate what she had formerly told me.—Vesuvius—Etna—Sicily—England—with the customs of different countries, all afforded ample themes for

amusing and not unprofitable discourse. I introduced my Father and Mother to my master and the other travellers, who expressed themselves highly pleased with the interview.

I was told that the Count de Balette had got married, and I walked out of town, as far as his mansion, in order to see him. He happened to be out on his morning ride. I afterwards learned, by a letter which I received from my Mother, that the Count being aware of my being at Antwerp, expected me calling to see him, and had actually, on going out that very morning, told the porter that if I called while he was out, he was to desire me to wait till his return. This the man neglected to do, and as I was desirous to have seen my old master, I felt at the time a little disappointment. Yet I have not the least doubt that this neglect, or mistake, or whatever it was, happened for my advantage. As the Count had extensive estates, mines, &c. in different parts of the country, I always apprehended, that had we had an interview, he would have been making me some advantageous offer or other of a settlement for life. And, as my services with Mr. Mackenzie would most likely close on our arrival in England, it is not improbable but I might have been induced to accept an offer of this kind.

Providence, however, had decreed otherwise, and, considering the relative degrees of quiet which this country and those parts of the continent have since enjoyed, I cannot, on a retrospective view, but feel thankful.

Our few days stay at Antwerp were soon gone,

and the moment arrived when I must part from those objects which I still felt to be the dearest to me on earth. I mustered up all the courage I possibly could, and parted with my Mother under her own roof. My Father, then 82 years of age, accompanied me and my fellow-travellers across the River Scheldt. Before parting with the old man, I had a sore struggle in my mind, not doubting but that I should see him no more.—On account of appearances, however, before my companions, I saw it necessary to make a strong effort. Having landed on the Flanders side of the river, I accompanied my Father to an inn, where we each took a moderate quantity of brandy.—I assumed as courageous a deportment as I could ; telling him that very likely, on arriving in England, I should leave my present employer, and perhaps engage to accompany some other English gentleman on a similar route : in short, that it was not improbable we might soon meet again. Shaking hands, therefore, we bade a cordial, an affectionate, and, as my mind foreboded, a final farewell. But although the superior powers of the understanding may seem to triumph for a time over the passions ; nature will have its course. As soon as I conveniently could, I sought a retired corner, and gave full vent to my smothered feelings, and thus obtained necessary relief. After we left Antwerp, we passed by the nearest route through France, and, embarking at Calais, we landed at Dover, and the day after arrived safe in London.

It may still be in the recollection of a few old

people, who, like myself, have survived more than is commonly the case, "the wreck of years," that about the period to which my history now refers, enormously broad-brimmed hats were worn in England. I had purchased, before I left France, one which I thought would be of sufficient dimensions to prevent my being laughed at, at any rate. In this I was mistaken, for I had not been many days in London ere I met, in the street, an old acquaintance, viz., a servant of my quondam friend, Major Warburton. This gentleman, it will be recollected, was the cause of my leaving Lieutenant Campbell. The man, after the necessary forms of salutation had been gone through, took hold of my arm, and gently leading me into a hat maker's shop, which happened to be hard by, made me stand before the glass and look at myself; at the same time himself setting up no little laugh at my expense. I had no alternative but be in the fashion I must, and I purchased a new hat there and then, although, to say the truth, like other dandies of the time, I was every moment, when walking on the pavement, liable to interruption from a concussion of head pieces.

The Major's man made me promise that I would take an early opportunity of calling to see him. When I did so, he would, reason or none, introduce me to his master, which became the occasion of not one of the least important turns in my life.

It proved that Major Warburton, on hearing that I was wanting a situation, conceived a very singular idea of serving me; although it proved to be at the expense of my friend who introduced me. He be-

gan by telling me that he had a situation in view for me, and that by following his direction, I should find all would be right. He desired me to leave London immediately and go down to Barnet ; and at such an inn inquire for a long-tailed bay horse, which was to be brought there from the North : that if the said horse was already there, I should remain and see that he was taken care of ; and, at all events, that I should remain there myself till I should hear further from him. I promised to obey his orders and set off the same day.

The day following that on which I got to Barnet, what was my surprise to see Major Warburton, who had himself followed me ! To crown my astonishment, he informed me that he had dismissed his old servant, and was resolved to have me in his place ! I confess my sensations were not all pleasurable, for in fact I had a dislike to the military life, and I told the Major so ; and intimated that, in case I engaged, I must have ten guineas additional wages. Even to this demand the Major willingly acceded, and away we went to Kilmar-nock, in Scotland, where his regiment then lay.

The Major's time, however, being chiefly spent with his regiment, and, as I have said, this way of life not suiting me, although I remained with him about a year and a half, yet this period seems an almost total blank in my memory, and nothing that I know of would be interesting to narrate except my manner of leaving him.

Among my other duties which I had to perform, I had regularly to go to the post office three days

a week, for the newspaper. The Major had given me many specimens of a straightforward domineering temper, but in no other instance did he go so far as in that which I am going to relate. He told me one day to go to the post office for the newspaper. I made answer "that there was no newspaper, that it was not the day." "Well, but go," said he, "as I order you." "Sir," said I, "there is no newspaper to-day, and if I go the people will laugh at me." "I tell you, go," continued he. "Then," said I, "*I will not go.*" "But," said he in return, "when your year is expired, I will take care you shall go." "Very well," I answered, "I will go sooner if you like." "Get a place, then," he continued, "as soon as you can."

We were but seven miles from Edinburgh; I knew that Mr. Mackenzie was there, and I hired a pony the same afternoon, and rode over. Mr. Mackenzie informed me that he had been in company with a young gentleman at the play the previous evening who was in want of a servant, and he did not doubt but it would suit me very well. Accordingly, I was introduced to a young gentleman of the name of M'L—, and engaged to go with him, first to London, and afterwards to the North of Scotland. On my return to the Major, however, I did not find him so willing to liberate me as I expected, and ultimately he would not do it excepting after a month's notice. I gave him the required time, and arranged with Mr. M'L— to follow him to London.

Nothing further passed during the month be-

twixt myself and the Major, concerning my leaving him, and on the day appointed, I had to remind him of the circumstance. It appeared that he had not expected that I should have persevered. I told him I always kept my important engagements. When he paid me my wages he was extremely affected,—he even wept. I was so far wrought upon myself that I could scarcely refrain. I told him that if I had known the value he appeared to set upon me, I would never have left him while I lived; but as things then were, there was no alternative.

CHAP. X.

FOLLOW Mr. M'L—— to London.—Difficulty in finding him there.—The Fortune-telling Girl.—Proceed to the Western Isles.—Condition of the Islanders.—Our errand.—Sailing to tune.—Our reception at Rassa.—Barley Bannocks.—My poor accommodations.—Discontent.—Kindness of Laird's Daughters. Serious reflections.—Primitive simplicity of the Inhabitants.—Harvest time.—Daily fare of the Peasantry.—Their contentment and robust health.—Christmas ceremonies.—Marriage ceremonies.

" Ban Ban, Ca—Caliban
Has a new master—get a new man."

THE TEMPEST.

I REALLY do not know whether I was destined to meet more than my share of little extraordinary circumstances in life, or whether it has been merely that I have taken more notice of them than people generally do as they have occurred. I had been directed by Mr. M'L——, to call upon him, when I came to London, at No. 12, Leicester Street; when I came to Leicester Street, I found to my confusion that there was no higher number than 11. At No. 11, therefore, as the nearest point to 12, I made my inquiries. The maid servant, of whom I asked my question, could give me no in-

formation, and I was about to give up my case for a bad one, when the master of the house, who had overheard what passed, came forward, and told me that he knew a lady of the name of M'L——, whose residence was in Gloster Street, "and," said he, "as the Scotch people all know each other, she might very possibly give you the directions you want." I thanked him, therefore, and proceeded to Gloster Street.

When I had found the lady's residence, I walked up to the door, and, judging that as there was a lady there was most likely a gentleman, I inquired if I could see Mr. M'L——. The servant told me that her Mistress' name was M'L——, but that *Mr.* M'L—— lived over the way. Over the way I therefore went without ceremony, and, on asking to see Mr. M'L——, I was desired to send in my name. This I did, but said, at the same time, that the gentleman I must see at all events. I had not, indeed, any expectation of finding him to be my intended master, but that by possibility I might learn something which would lead me to find him. I was told to walk up stairs. As I approached the apartment, what was my surprise to hear the effeminate voice of the very individual I was in search of, and I entered upon my duties immediately.

We remained in London for several weeks. The house did not belong to my master; he merely was entertained there as a relation to the master of the mansion, during his temporary sojourn in London. While here, of course, I spent a good deal of time

with the servant maids ; the gentleman of the house did not keep a male servant. One of the maids had some singular eccentricities. I will not, however, stop to give her particular history, but merely mention an incident with which my own history stands connected.

This maid, among her other singularities, was a great prognosticator, and used, partly in jest, and partly in earnest, to adopt various means of telling people's fortunes. She actually cut the cards and consulted the tea-cups, on my account, many times. It may be necessary here to make known, that though I had engaged to go with Mr. M'L——— to Scotland, a general understanding that I was to do so was all that I knew ; I was not at all acquainted with the particulars of our destination. As for the young gentleman, he did not appear to be very communicative, and, in other respects, was not ever agreeable ; in short, I was not greatly in love with my master. To add to my dissatisfaction, a young lady who lived over the way (the families were relations) and whose hair I was several times employed to dress, persuaded me that the place would not be good enough for me ; that I was going to half throw away my abilities. In fact, she took secret occasion to recommend me strongly to a gentleman of her acquaintance ; and I believe it was solely because the gentleman happened not to be at home when I called upon him, that I was prevented from again changing masters. Young M'L——— getting wind of the proceedings, prevailed upon me to abide by my original agreement.

It was while matters were in the doubtful condition alluded to, that the maid consulted the fates for me ; and, what was singular, although I had repeatedly said that I would not go, and myself saw the probability quite on the other side of the question, my Sybil as peremptorily asserted "that I should not only go, but that I should succeed to my heart's desire ; and that I should, in our journey, have to *cross the sea.*" What made the coincidences doubly remarkable, she did not merely practice her arts of divinations once, but several times ; and each time brought the same results : although, as to my having to go farther than the shores of Scotland, I believe she was at the time as ignorant as myself. All this was matter of merriment enough at the time, but was, of course, (to myself at least) nothing more than joking.

One day, the valet of the celebrated Lord George Gordon called at our house. He was a Scotchman, and took occasion to ask me if I was not intending to accompany the young Squire to the Isle of Skye ? "To the Isle of Skye," says I, "I cannot tell where I am going, only I understand that we are going to the North of Scotland. The man, knowing all the localities, proceeded to tell me all about it, and among the rest, that we should have to cross the sea for about the space of sixteen miles in the boats of the Islanders ! Myself and the maids had listened with a sort of indifferent attention till he came to the mention of the sea, at the name of which, we were first wonderstruck, and then each and all burst into a fit of laughter. Our

young wise-woman, however, frightened at her own success, and fearing that the devil had more to do with her than she liked to have with him, resolved never more to practice fortune-telling.

As my excursion to the Western Isles was extraordinary, and produced rather uncommon results in my future life, I shall take the liberty of being a little particular in its history. This cluster of islands, called the Hebrides, of which the Isle of Skye is one, and the Isle of Raasa another, are perhaps the most wild, uncultivated, and romantic spots in Christendom, both with regard to their topographical peculiarities and to their inhabitants. The people were at that time (and I do not know that the time since has made much difference) the most ignorant, simple, and contented, of any which I had ever met with. And to complete my wonder, our errand among them was to marry my master to one of their young damsels; even to a daughter of M'L——, the laird of the Isle of Raasa!

This being our errand, and the said laird and his family of course expecting our arrival, we were borne over the sea, from the Scottish shore, by a small vessel sent expressly to meet us.

The first thing which struck me as singular in these islanders was, that as soon as we were seated in their boat, and they had got fixed to their oars, one of their number struck up a singing, in which the rest immediately joined. Although I did not understand their language, I could perceive their song was very simple; that it consisted of few words and of frequent chorusses. They took care

continually to beat time with their oars in the water ; and this was continued without interruption till we arrived at their island.

Allowing for the simple customs of the place, and their apparently poverty-stricken condition, we were received with every mark of respect, and towards my master, of affection too. But my readers may judge of what my luxuries were likely to consist of, where all the servants in the establishment, without one exception, lived exclusively on two meals a day, and these meals composed of thick water porridge and barley bannocks ! It is true, my southern pedigree being taken into consideration, and coming as the esteemed servant of one so dear to the family, I was allowed some extraordinary indulgences. I had a room appropriated to my own use ; the same being a large kind of chamber, in one of the wings of the antique mansion ; which chamber I can perhaps best describe by comparing it with a respectable English hay-loft. My bed was of loose long straw, with a rug to throw over me. I had now and then a little exceedingly lean meat allowed me to dinner. Contrary to their custom, I had breakfast allowed me, which consisted of curd of sheep's or goat's milk. My supper was of the same material. I was also privileged with one small glass of whisky every morning, which was a great favour indeed, as it was only allowed to the laird's domestics once a year, viz. at Christmas.

I think my readers will not be surprised to learn that I felt at first a good deal discontented. I was

always desirous, however, when I had made an engagement, to fulfil it, if possible, and to make the best of things which were not over convenient. I had also some sources of comfort; the laird's daughters, for he had several, performed the duty of housekeeper by weekly turns, my young mistress among the rest. Each of these ladies strove, by every means in their power to make me comfortable, that is, according to their notions of comfort. To accomplish this benevolent purpose, they would frequently, in their perambulations through the house, contrive to convey to me a lump of butter, or some other article of luxury; but always unknown to the lady, their mother. These instances of kind regard were sure to minister as much for the alleviation of my discontent, as to supply my outward wants.

But the way in which these young ladies served me most effectually, was, by supplying me with books to read. A Geographical Grammar, which I had the loan of, caused me to study that science to more purpose than ever I had done before. Robertson's History of America, I also read with attention and pleasure; as well as the weekly newspapers. A sentiment in one of the books, which happened to be on moral and religious duties, I never forgot, for it tended effectually to cure me of my discontent. The author observed, "that a person was frequently happy or miserable in proportion as he compared himself with those above or below himself in the means of happiness." I gave this a most serious con-

sideration ; and it required no great effort of mind to discover that, with regard to myself, I was far better off than a majority of those around me. I went still farther : I asked myself what I had done to merit any thing at the hands of Divine Providence, more than those poor Islanders, whom I daily saw with their means so scanty and their minds so content. I really considered this subject so effectually, that discontent entirely left me, while thankfulness and peace took its place in my mind.

The mental change which I thus experienced was so satisfactory, that I actually commenced projecting for myself a scheme of happiness in my present situation. I thought that if it was proposed to me to be confined for life upon the island, or even within the circle of a mile upon it ; with my present accommodation and diet, with only one addition, that is, *a partner exactly to my mind* :—this, with the privilege of retaining my small morning glass of whisky, I thought would make me as happy as I desired to be. Nor did the influence of these reflections leave me on my leaving the Island ; I have retained a degree of it ever since.

Surely nothing can convey a more true representation of patriarchal simplicity and primitive inoffensiveness that the manners of the Erse inhabitants of these northern isles ! They almost literally appeared to answer, when I was among them, to the description of society in a future state given by the poet :—

“ They know no want, they feel no care.”

As we were there during eleven months out of the twelve, I had opportunities of observing them through all the seasons of the year. I have already mentioned their singing during our voyage to the islands. This was by no means a solitary instance, as many besides myself are aware. Indeed, with a similar vocal accompaniment, they seemed to perform all their labour. For instance, I witnessed their manner of reaping barley in harvest time. The barley is obliged to be all shorn with the sickle, on account of the stony nature of the soil ; and a group of reapers have universally a foreman whose business it is to lead the work and the singing. The sickles keep time with the notes of the song ; and the music never ceases from morn till night. If at any time the labour seems to lag, the leader has only to give an extra impulse to the vocal strain, and the work is impelled accordingly. I took occasion, I remember, to remonstrate with an individual leader on what I thought so unnecessary an addition to these poor people's exertions during their labour. I was soon told, that it was not deemed extra trouble at all ; for, besides being a stimulus to the work, it was a source of considerable enjoyment.

It was a singular custom among these people, that let them be labouring when or how they might, they had nothing to eat till dinner time, which was eleven o'clock in the forenoon. They have nothing answering to our *breakfast*, nor have they even such a word in their language. As to the dinner, in the instance of the reapers, their method was, when a

number were at work in one field, to convey a tub of thick water porridge, mixed with chopped greens, upon a pole borne horizontally on the shoulders of two men. This was drunk, or rather guzzled, (for the drinking was always accompanied with a gurgling noise, the half-solid, half-liquid food being drawn into the mouth with the breath,) out of wooden noggins. They were not each furnished with a separate vessel, but it was passed from one to another, round the company.

Besides the gruel, there was always, according to the number of people employed, a hamper of their celebrated barley bannocks. These were a kind of unleavened cake, made of barley meal and water, with a little salt. The cakes were about eight inches in diameter, and perhaps half an inch thick. They did not eat the cakes to the gruel, but afterwards, as a kind of dessert. And this was the chief meal of these cheerful and contented labourers ! I say cheerful and contented ; for to see them return from their day's labour, all glee and merriment, any one might have imagined them to have been engaged in nothing but festivity. I have known more than one instance of parties of them, after returning from the field, occupying my room for the purpose of a dance. And with regard to the effect of their living, on their physical energies, a person only need give them his hand to shake to be fully convinced of their muscular strength. They have really sometimes made my fingers stick together with their strong grasp, and when I got to

know them better, I used to beg their pardon when they offered me the ceremony.

I had an opportunity, as I was there during the Christmas, of observing some singular customs which these people practice at that season. On Christmas eve, the servants and tenants, and all who were in any way dependent on the laird of Raasea, assembled in the mansion. A green bullock's hide was prepared for the occasion, and as many as could take hold of it did so, and stretched it out in the form in which women stretch a sheet. Taking hold of it with the left hand, and being each provided with a stick in his right, they commence beating the hide as hard and as quick as possible; this they do first all round the outside of the house, and then entering inside, they perform the same ceremony in the chief family-room. When they have done this for some time, they take a knife, and cut a small piece from the hide: this piece they hold in a candle till it burns. The person who holds it to the candle then smells at it, after which he holds it to the nostrils, first of the laird, then the lady, and alternately to all the children. What this ceremony meant I did not learn*. After this,

* Since writing the above my attention has been called to Dr. Johnson's Tour through the Western Isles, which it will scarcely be to my credit not to have previously seen. I find the Dr. gives a similar account to what I have done of this ceremony; and, like myself, acknowledges his ignorance of its meaning. I think, however, that the conjecture of my friend Mr. J. E. Ross, a gentleman whose opinions on matters of antiquity deserve regard, is ex-

they were all served with barley bannocks, and also with a little cheese of such granite consistency, that it gave pain to my gums, and left sanguiferous marks each time I masticated it. It was on this occasion, also, that they had their small yearly dole of whisky, which made them dance in my room the rest of the evening, both with more energy and mere perseverance than usual.

Although, as I have said, that with regard to my own living, I had several indulgences not allowed to the other servants, yet, were I to publish a list of my privations, I have no doubt it would seem a curious document. I recollect that, at Christmas, our gentry treated themselves with plum-pudding for two successive days. I had, of course, to wait at the table, which gave me an opportunity of smelling, and also, though contrary to the will of my superiors, of tasting this rare dish, in the following manner. On my removing the brown earthen vessel containing the spare pudding, on the first day in question, contrary to my usual custom of setting it down on the sideboard, I walked out of the room and down stairs with it. My young master, who had his eye upon me, took the alarm, and followed. To make the best use of my time, I had, extremely probable. Mr. R.'s opinion is, that the practice in question is a relic of Druidical superstition, derived from the worship of their god Hu or Haec, to whom the ox was sacred. It is reasonable to suppose that such customs would be preserved among these islanders, who, like the inhabitants of the Highlands of Scotland, and the mountains of Wales, are descendants from the real ancient Britons.

ere I got to the kitchen, filled my mouth with the pudding. On his overtaking me, he made no scruple, but asked me directly if I thought nobody was to have any pudding but myself? I was in no condition to reply, but there was no remedy; and, with my mouth full, I gobbled out in return, "and what sort of a share should I have got, had I waited for your asking?" Several of the young ladies, who had more feeling for me, laughed secretly, but heartily, at my exploit; and the day following, on the pudding being ready for removal, my young mistress gave me a signal, at which I quietly removed the dish, fixing it in full view upon the sideboard, but, in so doing, I contrived adroitly to remove its contents into my hands, and demurely walking out of the room, I enjoyed myself at my leisure.

With regard to meat, it was very seldom that any was left from the first table, and that was so excessively lean that I did not care much for it. I commonly dined with a few of the other servants, on kail, or the mixture of flour and greens, without even salt! We never sat down to dinner, but universally stood round the table, and all ate out of one dish. When I could do it slyly, I always took care to purloin, for my own use, a lump of butter, with which I enriched my side of the dish, to the no small envy of the rest.

But I must not omit to mention some of their marriage ceremonies, which I also witnessed. The day before a wedding, a bucket of water is provided, and all the young women in the neighbourhood assemble together. The ring to be used is then

thrown into the water, and the girls scramble which can get it out first. Nor are their efforts few or feeble ; much faith being placed on the circumstance, that she who happens to be successful shall take precedence at the altar of Hymen.

Festivities of weddings were generally held in some large room or barn. On their return from kirk or chapel, the party is met at the door by a person provided with a sievefull of short-bread ; which he or she throws over the head of the bride as she enters the place : which is meant, I suppose, to prefigure the plenty with which they desire she may always be supplied. After this the bride takes her seat at the head of the table—generally a long one, not more than two feet wide. All the time she is so seated, she holds one arm round the waist of a girl who sits next her ; but, neither did I learn what this ceremony meant. The wedding dinner always consisted of broth, or soup, the meat being boiled down. The bridegroom's duty is to wait, and see that the dishes are refilled as they become empty. After dinner the bagpipes play, and dancing commences. A little whisky also goes round, and the merriment is continued till the evening.

When it gets towards bed-time, the bride disappears, and afterwards the bridegroom. Nobody seems to notice the circumstance till a person enters the room and summon all the company to follow him. They do so, and are led into the house of the new married couple, where, being conducted into the bed room, they find them both undressed, and seated in bed. The company all stand, and the

whisky goes round. The pair (for I saw the ceremony myself) made me smile, for I thought that their downcast faces and their night-caps made them look more as though they were going to Tyburn than any thing else. To conclude, each of the two has a glass of whisky thrown in their face, and the company retire! Next morning, a bread creel, or sort of hamper, is tied in due form round the shoulders of the husband, and he, of course, bears its weight. The considerate and loving wife then takes a knife, and dividing the cord which binds it, eases him of its burden. The meaning of this beautiful emblem, I think, every one will see. I actually saw this latter ceremony performed afterwards at the wedding of the Duke of Manchester with Lady Susan Gordon, when I was in the family; only, in this instance, the Duke's part was performed by proxy.

CHAP. XI.

SOME account of my Master.—Our unfortunate quarrel.—Results of our quarrel.—The barefoot Valet.—Excursion to Skye fair.—The Inn without accommodations.—Private hospitality.—Further remarks concerning the Islanders.—The infidel Parson.—Rent paying.—Second sight.—Funeral ceremonies.—Further remarks on their music.

“ Well, here I am, resolved to view the land,
Inquire, and ponder,—hear and understand.”

COAN LAW RHYMES.

It may be expected that I should say something concerning the wedding of my young master, which took place sometime after we came to the island ; but as it was conducted with more than ordinary privacy, I have nothing particular to record concerning it ; and the account given in the preceding chapter, is from observations which I made on other opportunities that I had of being present at those ceremonies. At the same time there are some circumstances which took place previous to my master's wedding, which, perhaps, I ought not to pass over, although some of them may not be very much to his credit.

My master was a distant relation to Laird M'L—. He had, as I learned, originally little or no property, and had been chiefly brought up in this family. An uncle, who had amassed a great deal of money in the East Indies, dying childless, left him a large share of his riches, and he thus suddenly, and while in the laird's family, became a rich man. Being somewhat attached to one of the daughters, stipulations were presently entered into for their future union. However, one of my young master's craniological developments, as I suppose, being instability, he came to me only a few days before the wedding, and seriously asked me what I would advise him to do, as he doubted the girl did not love him. I put on as grave a face as became me, and asked him what he would have the young lady to do ; I really thought, I added, that she manifested, as far as I had opportunity of judging, all the tokens of love which young ladies in similar circumstances think it prudent to manifest. "Aye," said he in reply, "but you know she has nothing ! I cannot think of marrying her, and you and I will set off this very night for Scotland."

"Sir," said I in return, "*I will not go with you.* Consider for a moment; from the ~~very~~ circumstances of her poverty, you have an opportunity of extracting the greatest possible happiness. Would you not much rather be the liberal donor of happiness to one, whom you cannot but acknowledge you love, than to have the means of it to receive from another, as would be the case if she had been rich and yourself poor? In marrying this

young lady, to whom you are already in a manner betrothed, you lay the object of your choice under everlasting obligations to return your affection." I believe I may take some credit to myself for having, by this reasoning, overcome his scruples to matrimony.

I must say that I am rather sorry to record, that the day before the wedding, a little affair happened betwixt Mr. M'L—— and myself, which threatened for a moment to have given the season a gloomy aspect. I shall have to allude, hereafter, to the difficulty I experienced while in these Islands, of getting a supply of shoes, and other articles of wearing apparel, not, indeed, from a want of money, but of artists to execute my orders. On the morning in question, I was in Mr. M'L——'s bed-room assisting him to dress. While so engaged, I took occasion to tell him that his shoes began to be worn out, and at the same time I held a pair in my hand as a proof of the fact. Directly, and to my utter astonishment, he accused me of having worn them. I retorted on him, that so far from that being the case, I had better shoes than he had. He stood no more ceremonies, but, raising his foot, he gave me a kick. My mettle would not stand that, and I directly turned to collar him. Though a much bigger man than I, he was by no means overstocked with courage; and my attempt to grasp at his breast, combined with his own fears, sent him backward into the bed-curtains, tearing them from their hold at the top like paper.

I felt, in a moment, the impropriety of the scene,

and though labouring under no small degree of passion, I left the room immediately. A Mr Mac-kinnon,* a relative of the family, and who happened to be sojourning in the house at the time, followed me after a short interval, into my own apartment. So far from blaming me, this gentleman very kindly undertook to condole with me on the untoward event ; but at the same time, pushing a guinea into my hand, asked me if I would oblige him by going to my master, and for the sake of appearances, beg his pardon. " Me go and beg Mr. M'L——'s pardon ! no, Sir, not by any means ; I consider I have received a gross insult ; however, for your sake, Sir, and that of the lady, and on account of the extraordinary occasion, I will consent that it shall be made up on the good old Scotch fashion, it shall be, ' Let be for let be.' " He saw no chance of better terms, and therefore acquiesced.

Although the laird was in the house at the time, and knew all about it, if he did not hear it all, yet neither he nor the old lady took the least notice of it to my disadvantage ; indeed, I may say, with truth, that I had become a favourite with most of them, and was considered as much in the light of the young gentleman's guardian, as in that of his servant.

But I had not yet done with it neither. In about two hours after, I had to attend the young lady in her own room, to put up her hair, prepara-

* This Mr. Mackinnon was a literary character, and his name will be known to some of my readers, as author of a work on " The Wealth of the Nation."

toes for the following day. I knew she had not seen him, for the custom of the country strictly forbids the lady seeing the gentleman on the day before the wedding. I, therefore, hoped we should have nothing about it. Notwithstanding, I was mistaken. On entering, I found her the very picture of sadness. In person, she was handsome, as well as being possessed of superior mental qualifications. She seemed for the moment almost in an agony of grief. She began by saying, "O, D'Amour, if you cannot please him, what am I to do?" It is acknowledged, that a pretty woman under circumstances of sorrow, is not an object to be contemplated with indifference; for myself I was quite overcome. I made a strong effort, however, and managed to reply—"Madam, pray do not say another word, I cannot stand it."

A little while after the marriage, I recollect, my master, in true keeping with his fickleness of character, told his wife concerning his own previous matrimonial misgivings, and how he proposed to me that we should have privately left the island, and what arguments I used to dissuade him. This confession on his part, caused her to take an opportunity of thanking me for the service I had rendered her.

When we left London, I had but little notion, as I have already hinted, of where we were going; and, in fact, I never could have conceived, that any where, within the circuit of heaven's sun, a set of mortals existed in such a condition of wretched privation as these Islanders. I, therefore, had taken

no precaution to provide myself with more than my ordinary stock of wearables. I had even left a part of my things in London, not being aware that we were to remain in the North for any length of time.

I had not been long at Raasa, however, before I discovered my real condition ; for as my things wore out, or wanted repairing, I found it impossible to get my wants supplied. For shoes, I was in a most wretched condition. I recollect very well, I had one day to take a short journey across the country, and coming to a place where I was put to my shifts to get over the dirt, I was stepping, or rather leaping from the top of one large stone to that of another ; when, lo ! one of my shoes broke across the middle into two even parts, the fore end flying off my foot, and falling two or three yards in advance of me ! Although I was by myself, I remember that a sense of my curious situation made me laugh most heartily. I thought it odd, indeed, that with plenty of money in my pocket, I should be obliged to walk, for miles, literally barefoot !

It is true, on my attending a fair which was held in the Isle of Skye, a little time after, I thought myself happy in finding one single pair of a sort of non-descript articles which were somewhere near fitting my feet ; but, to my additional mortification, when I attempted to wear them, they proved as brittle as glass, and broke in pieces with as much facility, as if they had actually been made of that frail material.

This excursion to Skye fair deserves a little no-

tice. It happened that a young man, from Skye, a foster-brother to one of our young ladies, had been sojourning at our house for some weeks. During his stay, he and myself had become acquainted. On the approach of the fair, he announced his intention of returning home, and he, moreover, prevailed on me to accompany him on a tour of pleasure. Of pleasure, however, I cannot say that I met with a great stock, although of curiosities there were plenty. We went over in one of the laird's boats, along with my master and mistress, as well as others of the family, but with a full understanding that I was at liberty to follow my own inclination when we got there.

On our arrival, myself and companion soon separated from the rest. The fair was chiefly for cattle, and was held in the wild open country, for as to towns, it is well known there is no such thing. Of assembled beasts there were thousands upon thousands; but my friend and I wanted none of them. In our search after what we considered more substantial, we were very glad to find an Inn, where we were in hopes of getting some refreshment, of which we began to stand in need. "What must we have," said I to my companion. "I care not," said he, "what we can eat." I called for each of us a portion of "brandy?" They had none. "Rum?"—They had none. "Gin?"—They had none. "Whisky?"—They had none. "Have you any beer?" "No." "In the name of wonder, then let us have a little of something to eat?"—They had nothing to spare, to eat! And

this Inn, I was informed, was built by government, *for public accommodation!!!* I made my exit as speedily as I could from this curious place of entertainment, preferring, by many degrees, the open air and a sight of the bleak hills and the primitive boulders, to these modern, but abortive attempts at improvement.

As I began to be alarmed for the condition of our stomachs, I willingly agreed to my friend's proposal, which was for a speedy adjournment to his Father's house, which was at a distance of four or five miles. The young man's family was considered as highly respectable. The house, as we approached, presented a comparatively splended appearance, and contained in its spacious interior, (composed, it is true, of only one room) two or three cows, poultry, and various other live stock.

Had I been the laird himself, I could not have been better behaved to. The first, and, indeed, immediate signs, that we were going to enjoy a Christian meal, were the expiring screams of the fowls. And, in fact, we presently had prepared for us one of the best and most plentiful meals which I had enjoyed for a long season, with whisky into the bargain. At night, the master and mistress would, whether or no, abandon their own bed for my accommodation. So much for the Isle of Skye fair.

With regard to the hospitality of these Islanders, it is, I think, taking into consideration their scanty means, without a parallel in the whole world. When a stranger comes among them, if there hap-

pen to be three or four cottages, there is quite a strife amongst them as to who shall have the preference of giving him entertainment. His news, if he has any, they listen to with the greatest eagerness, although, to say truth, his communications must be very simply made, in order to be within the sphere of their comprehension. I have said they are very superstitious. This is shewn by their fondness of fairy tales, and accounts of witches, &c. They are singularly honest ; not a bolt, or a bar, or lock, did they either use or need when I was among them. They were not without pride, and to hear an insinuation of their poverty, would have given them great offence, although they might not possess one farthing's value ! I observed another capital feature in their characters ; they never fell out. I do not know that during all the time I was among them, I saw one serious manifestation of ill temper. Untaught as they were, they always seemed agreeable with each other. In their sports and pastimes, which too often give rise, in other countries, to feuds and quarrels, they are always remarkably pleasant. Having made my observations, while abroad, on the peasantry of the countries through which we passed, I have no doubt that the miserable inhabitants of the Hebrides were the happiest which I had ever seen. As to the lower orders in the states of Rome, Venice, &c., they formed, for low cunning, and manifestation of every bad principle, a perfect contrast.

I have spoken of the unvarying simplicity and sincerity of these Islanders. These excellent

qualities did not altogether protect them from being the dupes of the hypocritical cupidity of some who were their superiors in circumstances. When my master was about to be married, it was the desire of the parties that the ceremony should be performed by a Rev. Mr. M----, a distinguished clergyman, whose residence was northward on the Island of Skye, and I accompanied my master thither, in order to obtain this gentleman's attendance and services at the wedding. This gentleman was a dignitary of the Scotch Kirk, and took a very active part in the proceedings of the General Assembly. On our arrival, I was behaved to in a manner becoming my master's connection with the laird of Raasa. The mansion was a splendid one; we remained over one night. I was accommodated with a room to myself, and as much whisky as I chose to drink. The Rev. Gentleman even paid personal attentions to me, for he brought me a book to read, and took occasion to recommend its contents strongly. I was surprised, however, to find his favourite author to be Voltaire! One of the first passages I read on opening the volume was, "that Kings discipline the church with the same views as they regulate their armies." I closed the volume in disgust, and when the parson asked me how I liked the book, I took the liberty of asking him "if he believed the Bible?" He answered, "Not all of it." And yet this man, as I have said, was a dignitary of the church!

The manner in which the lairds of these Islands received their rents, I thought very singular. Most

of the householders, all round the neighbourhood, occupied as much land under the laird as was valued at from twenty to forty shillings, but as for money, it was out of the question, they never saw any.

Against the time when the laird intended to collect his rents—for it was not done at distinct and regular periods, the poor wretched looking head farmer, or land steward, was dispatched round to all the tenantry, warning them of the event. When the time arrives, suppose a man owes for two years, he perhaps brings with him a steer of two years old. If his beast is valued at forty shillings, his rent of course is paid; but if only at thirty shillings, he must either produce something more, or he must remain in arrears. As soon as the beast in question is taken into the possession of the laird, either by himself or domestics, the front part of its dewlap is cut from the top downward, leaving a little skin at the bottom, which suffers the part to dangle between the animal's fore legs. These were the cattle annually assembled at the Isle of Skye, where a great number of Scotch graziers attended; and the beasts so marked used to be known by the butchers of Sheffield, and even much farther towards the south.

Most people who know any thing of these Islanders, are aware that they are famous for what is called *second sight*. I observed an instance of this which was remarkable. The farmer at the half was a married man; as for respectability, if that consists, either wholly or in part, in a decent appearance, he had not by any means so much claim to it

as a common English labourer. His boulder cot-tage was at a distance from the hall. It is needful also to premise, that in the same wing of the house which contained my room, and directly underneath it, was what was called the "women's house;" to understand which appellation it is necessary to know, that all the nurses which have been employed in great families in these Islands, are, ever after their service, considered in the light of relations, and provision made for them accordingly. This family of the Laird M'L——, having several of these ex-nurses living together, employed in spinning wool, &c. in the room above named, gave it the name of the "women's house."

The highest man-servant of the laird, a kind of house steward, came into my room one evening in a sad fright, and told me "he had seen the *second sight*; and that there would most certainly be a death in the family soon." I asked him what it was like? He said, "it was like a flame of fire; and that it came out of the sea (which was only a quarter of a mile distant) and that it glided along towards the hall; and finally entered the 'women's house.'" Most likely what the poor man saw, was in truth the *ignis fatuus*. However, it was remarkable, (and would probably tend to confirm his superstition,) that a daughter of the farmer man above mentioned, and who lived at a distance, was taken suddenly ill while at the hall; it proved to be the small pox, and she died in the "women's house!"

At the burial of their dead they have a curious custom, which I had several opportunities of ob-

serving, and which would not at all agree with our ideas of decorum. Having arrived at the graveyard, they seat themselves by the side of the grave, and commence eating and drinking as at a festival; the nearest relation being always expected to give the welcome to the rest. And in the instance above named, of the father burying the daughter, I saw him anxious to omit no hospitable ceremony, while at the same time the big tears were rolling down his manly cheeks.

One word more with regard to the music of these Islanders. I believe (although, according to the common apology of egotists, it is "I who say it,") I believe, that I possessed, when young, a rather fine ear. As proof of it, I could catch, with uncommon facility, almost whatever tune I once heard, both after I came to England, and while I was upon the continent; but of the airs and tunes of these people, I came away almost as ignorant as I was when I went among them. There was really something so wild and contrary to all known principles of the tuneful art, that I could not acquire the least portion of them. Whether it requires, in order to the practice, that the vocal organs should be used to it from infancy, I cannot tell. Wild as their notes are, however, they never fail to be pleasing to the ear, and I have listened to them for hours and hours again, almost in a state of enchantment.

CHAP. XII.

Exit from the Hebrides.—Go to Edinburgh.—Engage with Lord Selkirk.—The engagement cancelled.—A messenger from Lady Maxwell.—Enter the service of the Duchess of Gordon.—Début at Gordon Castle.—Dance before His Grace.—First interview with the Duchess.—Accompany Her Grace to Peter-head.—Making coffee.—My situation agreeable.—Splendour of our London Establishment.—Visit from Prince of Wales.—Grand Entertainment — Prince of Wales' Birth-day.—Myself invited.—My mode of life exceedingly agreeable.

" —— I'll serve this Duke ; for I can sing
And speak to him in many kinds of music
That will allow me very worth his service."

THE TWELFTH NIGHT.

MR. M'L—— coming of age when I had been about eleven months on the islands, the time for which I engaged was expired, and I must either leave him or engage for another twelve months. I decided to leave him and the islands too, and to begin the world afresh in the metropolis of Scotland.

Having laid my plan, I executed it accordingly. When I arrived in Edinburgh, I resolved to be in

no hurry, but to enjoy myself, and be my own master for at least a few weeks. After a short period, I engaged with Lord Selkirk to go abroad with his son. As, however, I neither went abroad with this young nobleman, nor remained long in the family, I shall make a short account of it.

Lord Selkirk had several daughters in the house, all young girls; and as I believe I was expert in my profession of dressing hair, I attained in this line no small degree of credit with several of them. As it did not suit some of the other upper servants in the establishment to have, as they thought, a rival, they took various occasions to make my situation disagreeable. At the same time, my observations on the disposition of my future young master not being altogether satisfactory, I prevailed on Lord S. to liberate me from my engagement. His lordship did so, and behaved with great kindness, advising me, at all events, to go with his son to London, where he thought I should stand a far better chance of meeting with something to my mind than elsewhere. Before, however, I had an opportunity either to leave his lordship's service, or to go with his son to London, a circumstance occurred which prevented the necessity of my applying any where.

One afternoon, when I was preparing to dress young Lord D., I happened to hear my own name mentioned below stairs: immediately begging his lordship's pardon, I hastened down to see what was wanted. I found, to my surprise, that it was a

messenger from Lady Maxwell, who had been in search of me for three days.

The way in which this lady had heard of me, was from my having had the honour, on several occasions, while in Edinburgh, of dressing the head of her daughter, the Lady Wallace. The reason why her servant had been so long in finding me out, was, that her ladyship did not recollect my name. On being introduced to Lady Maxwell herself, which I was on the same day, she told me she had an excellent situation for me in a family, if I chose to take it. I politely thanked her ladyship, but told her in reply, that as I had qualifications for accompanying a travelling gentleman, I should prefer that course. She still persisted, telling me that the situation she offered me was no common one, being to attend on her daughter, the Duchess of Gordon. She told me, moreover, of the way in which they had become acquainted with me, and how highly her daughter Wallace spoke of my abilities. Few men, even in humble situations in life, are proof against flattery, and excellent terms being offered me, I accepted the place without more ceremony.

In about a month I set off for Gordon Castle. The very day before my arrival, the Duchess had gone from home, to remain for several weeks. Having a letter to deliver to the Duke's valet, whom I found at home, from a friend of his, and likewise shewing him one which I had from Lady Maxwell to the Duchess, I was soon installed in

the good graces of that personage. By him I was politely introduced to the butler, who presently conducted me into the cellar, giving me my choice of whatever wine I might choose to drink.

I may here notice some reflections which I made about this time on my past conduct, and particularly on the causes of my failure in the family of Lord Selkirk. It appeared evident to myself, that I had on some occasions made myself too cheap and familiar ; that on going into a new situation, and especially on my going into the family last named, I had not assumed that importance to which my experience and qualifications entitled me. And let people think what they may of those airs of dignity and authority, nothing is of more consequence in situations similar to those in which I moved. I do not mean that I regretted I had not put on supercilious airs which become no man, and for which some gentlemen's lacqueys deserve to be kicked out of all society. I mean I had failed in maintaining a true sense of the value of those qualifications which I had acquired by such experience as few had had the opportunity of attaining ; and such being my views, I resolved, go where I would, to try the effect of a different line of conduct.

In true keeping, then, with the above notion, I accepted the butler's offered generosity in a bottle of champagne. At dinner, I was seated on the housekeeper's left hand, and all appeared anxious to manifest towards me every mark of attention. When the dinner was over, the females retired, and the men-servants remained drinking their wine. I

was invited to drink, but declined taking more than two or three glasses, and could not withhold my admiration of their true politeness in allowing me to follow my own inclination. When each had taken a moderate quantity of wine, instruments of music, which hung against the wall, were taken down by the different individuals, and all of a sudden the steward's room was converted into something like a concert hall. This, as my readers will be aware, was exactly to my own taste ; I was pleased beyond measure. The butler, particularly, was an amateur of the first class ; not merely being a performer but a composer, and actually was himself author of many excellent Scotch reels, which were not only played in Gordon Castle, but which I have often heard with pleasure far south of the Tweed.

The music was so unexpected by me, and sounded so sweet, that I sat for a considerable time raptured with delight. And while the butler was playing by himself on the violin, he did it so charmingly that I was fairly overcome, and starting upon my legs, commenced dancing a hornpipe. This I flattered myself I could do differently to any thing they were accustomed to see in Scotland, having practised myself a good deal after the manner of the London operas. They, in their turn, were as much charmed with my dancing as I had been with their playing ; and information of my performance being carried to the females, who had retired, they all re-entered the room, and I was desired by all parties to repeat what I had done, with which request I willingly complied.

I knew so much of gentlemen's families as to know that no part of these transactions would be withheld from the absent Duchess : but I had counted, as I thought, the cost of all the circumstances. Her Grace remained from home a whole month, during which time I had nothing to do but follow my own pleasure.

On the evening of the very day on which the family was expected at the castle, there happened to be a ball at a respectable Inn in the village, at which myself and one or two others from the hall attended. There was a good deal of dancing, of course, in which I took a conspicuous part.

When the entertainment was at its height, a gentleman whom I had not previously seen, came into the room, leading a smart girl by his side. All possible attention was paid to the strangers, and I was presently desired to dance a hornpipe. I began to feel a suspicion of something particular, but assuming the necessary confidence, I performed my part, seemingly to the satisfaction of all. Getting to know, after my performance was over, that the important strangers were the Duke of Gordon and Lady Charlotte, his daughter, I immediately left the room and tripped away as fast as I could to the castle. Her Grace had never called for me, neither did she during the evening, nor all next day, which I thought very singular ; still I resolved not to obtrude myself upon her uncalled, and waited with all the patience I could. On the morning of the third day I was summoned into her Grace's breakfast room.

The Duchess of Gordon was an uncommonly fine looking woman, and as I entered the apartment she was walking backward and forward with, as I thought, all the dignity of an eastern queen. She asked me if my name was not D'Amour, and if it was my real name, or one assumed after the military fashion of the day? I, of course, assured her Grace it was the name I derived from my parents. She in her turn remarked that it was a very pretty one : alluding, no doubt, to its meaning in French, which is "love." She next asked if I was not weary of doing nothing? I replied, "her Grace, I hoped, would pardon me ; I thought it better to do nothing, rather than by acting without orders do wrong." She pleasantly said, " You are right, D'Amour." Her Grace informed me in the general of the nature of what my duties would be, and that on the Monday following she was going to Peterhead, for the purpose of sea-bathing ; that I must go with her, and that until we got there she did not wish me to do any thing.

On the day after we arrived at Peterhead, I was informed by one of the lady's maids, that her Grace desired me to prepare to ride out with her. I expressed some surprise at this, not expecting that attendance on the Duchess out of doors would have made any part of my duties. In fact, I fore-saw that if this was to be the case I should be in a very unpleasant dilemma : so I told the maid to inform her Grace that I could not. " No, indeed !" replied the girl, " if that is to be your message, you must deliver it yourself." I made no more ado,

but, going into the presence of the Duchess, I told her that such a duty was certainly what I had not anticipated, that it would interfere with my other duties, and that I hoped her Grace had no desire to make a show of me. My frankness was borne with almost better than I expected, and there was no more of it.

In a few days the Duke joined our party, and a little circumstance presently occurred, which assisted materially to advance me in their mutual esteem. It happened one morning that the Duke was complaining of the coffee, how wretchedly thick and unpleasant it was, and his Grace addressing me, said, "D'Amour, could not you make coffee?" I replied I had no doubt of it; and was immediately requested to try. I hastened to the kitchen, and procuring the necessary ingredients, made it after the manner I had learnt at Paris. It was the most excellent imaginable, and my praises for coffee-making were repeated on many occasions; and as there were at the time, many of the nobility at Peterhead, and much visiting of parties backward and forward, the Duchess was frequently asked, as a favour, to allow me to make coffee. This circumstance, as will be easily conceived, was a source both of credit and profit.

The Duchess also let me know the estimation in which she held some of my other qualifications, by forbidding me on any account, to dress any lady's hair but her own. From these circumstances, I began to think I was making some progress in the world; and especially, I did not forget to admire

the effect of my more dignified plan of proceeding. Indeed, often since then I have been led to remark that, while we keep within the bounds of true modesty, and do not overvalue ourselves, nothing is more necessary than an adequate and proper esteem of our own abilities, for, generally, as we value ourselves, we shall be valued by others.

Thus I had got fixed to all appearance in a situation not unlikely to be permanent ; and thus things went on with me at Gordon Castle and in the country till the spring following, when, by my coming to London, in my capacity of groom of the chambers to the Duchess of Gordon, I was about to act in a sphere of life new to myself, and, if possible, more agreeable than any thing I had before known. When in London, I found that my Lady was one of the very tip-tops among the fashionables. Our house, indeed, was the rendezvous of all the moving and gay spirits which at that time floated in the political atmosphere of Great Britain.

We had not been long in town before His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales drove up to our house, and entering unannounced, as is the privilege of royalty, told our Duchess that he wanted some Scotch reels, and that he would bring a party that very evening. Her Grace would fain have been excused, saying she had no company invited. The Prince replied, "I will save your Grace the trouble, I mean to invite them myself, and we will come undressed." The plan thus laid was executed accordingly. The Prince came with all his retinue, and dancing and music was continued to a

late hour in the morning. One thing I must not omit to mention ; that night His Royal Highness was observed for the first time without buckles to his shoes : he had laid them aside for the evening, and substituted ties for the sake of the ease he would experience in dancing. I heard the company express their admiration of the precaution, but was most surprised when, before the end of a fortnight, almost every waiter at every inn in London was seen skipping about in shoe-ties, and that very ball, thus curiously got up, was like a death-blow to the poor buckle makers.

As the Prince had been liberal of his invitations we had a very numerous company, and no small stir took place in the brief space of time intervening to prepare the necessary supper. The Duchess ordered me to send off to Welsh's, a celebrated tavern which the Prince often made use of, for their head waiter, and when he came he was to give the directions ; yet during the evening I had orders also to do every thing just as I used to do at the castle. This I thought very strange. The latter message was brought me by Lady Mary Gordon. I told her ladyship that I could not think of it, as her Grace had sent for a waiter on purpose. When my refusal was delivered, she again dispatched to me Lady Charlotte, afterwards Duchess of Richmond. I still saw it my duty to refuse, saying that "I thought myself highly honoured, but as her Grace had already put the management in other hands, I could not, on such terms, take it out again ; but that, if she thought I was capable of doing the work

better, she could easily, for the time to come, leave it with me ;" which she ever did in future.

For reasons well known to such as are acquainted with the history of the Prince of Wales, his Royal Highness had at this time given up Carlton House as well as dismissed many of his servants, and was living more privately at Brighton ; yet his ideas of economy did not prevent him keeping his birth-day, which took place soon after our arrival in town, in a sufficient style of magnificence. The entertainments were held at the Castle Tavern, and our Duchess was invited among the rest. I was much gratified to have the honour of waiting behind her Grace, as she sat at table, exactly opposite to his Royal Highness, and his favourite, the celebrated Mrs. Fitzherbert. This lady was certainly a most handsome woman, and remarkably pleasant in company. The conversation flowed in an uninterrupted stream of gaiety ; and although the dinner lasted two hours and a half, I should have been pleased had it lasted till midnight.

Next day cards were sent to all the Prince's chief tradespeople, as well as all the upper servants in those households where his Royal Highness was in the habit of visiting, inviting us to a ball, which was to be given in the Prince's own ball-room. We, of the Duke of Gordon's establishment, were, of course, not overlooked. When the invitation was mentioned to the Duchess, as it was by her daughter, Lady Charlotte, she expressed great pleasure, adding, " And they shall have the use of my carriage." And when we were dressed, we were all

desired to come in and show ourselves together to the Duchess before we started. For myself, I luckily happened to have a new suit which she had never seen, and to give an idea of my profuseness in the line of dress, I may mention, that the forepart of my waistcoat cost me six guineas, and the other parts of my dress in proportion.

The entrance to the Prince's ball room, as well as the interior, was, to myself, who had seen a little of gaiety, inexpressibly grand. Being admitted, any one would have acknowledged that the apartments were worthy indeed of a Prince. I will forbear attempting to describe them, as the effort would only shew my inability. I need not say we had a profusion of gratification. About twelve o'clock three large tables were spread with the choicest dainties which London itself could afford. The manner in which these tables were presented to our view, and the materials with which they were covered, made the scene appear more like the work of enchantment, than that of a passage in real life.

The Prince and Mrs. Fitzherbert had announced their intention of coming to see the entertainment before its close : Mrs. Fitzherbert did so ; but the Prince was, I believe, prevented by indisposition.

It was in this kind of way we passed our time while in London ; and as I was always of an aspiring imagination, no other sort of life that I know of would have suited me so well. I have often thought it singularly coincident, that in my youthful days I was remarkably fond of forestalling fortune by

conjuring up scenes and circumstances which I thought would produce happiness ; and I do not know that I ever indulged in one of these reveries of imagination, but something in my future life corresponded with my juvenile visions of expected bliss.

As I do not intend to write a connected history of events which occurred alternately at London and at Gordon Castle during the ten years I was in the service of this noble family, and particularly as I did not take any memorandums at the time, my readers will still excuse my not referring to particular dates. I give this account entirely from memory ; but while I am ready to vouch for the truth of the facts related, I cannot be so sure that they happened in the exact order in which they are here recorded.

CHAP. XIII.

MAGNIFICENT entertainments of the Duchess of Gordon.—Prince of Wales, Mrs. Fitzherbert, and the Duke of Orleans.—Her Grace's apt reply to the Prince.—Administration Dinners.—Amusing Repartee.—Duke of Bedford.—Duchess of Gordon's political influence.—Leader of fashions.—Jocularity of Mr. Pitt and Lady Charlotte Gordon.—Anecdotes of Lady Susan Gordon.—My own progress in life.—Expected visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Gordon Castle.—Disappointment and arrival of a King's Messenger.—Pleasant railery thereupon.—Newspaper mistakes on State Affairs.

"It was a scene in every part,
Like those in fable feign'd,
And seem'd by some magician's art,
Created and sustain'd."

COWPER.

THE balls and entertainments given at our house in London were truly in a prince-like style of magnificence. I have frequently known us have not less than five or six hundred individuals in the house at once, comprehending, of course, the most fashionable and gay of all the nobility and gentry about town. I believe it was not long after the date of

the circumstance last enumerated that our Duchess gave a ball of particular magnificence and splendour. I can even now imagine that I see her at supper, seated before me, with the Prince of Wales and Mrs. Fitzherbert on her left, and the youthful Duke of Orleans on her right. The Prince, whom any one might have known for such at the first glance, himself the first in apparent as in real dignity beneath the King himself; and the Duke of Orleans, afterwards an unhappy victim to democratic misrule in his own country, then one of the gayest of the gay. Methinks I see the Prince of Wales, in his own style of dignified condescension, turning this way and that, as he led the conversation, that none might be overlooked, and that all might be pleased.

On the occasion alluded to, I remember, that just as the Prince had been giving way to his peculiar happy style of jocularity, the Duchess remarked, "That whoever should live to see it, his Royal Highness would make a singular King." Gathering up his face into the very picture of seriousness, he replied, "Pardon me, your Grace, I think the honour of England has been so degraded of late, that the crown would scarcely be worth the wearing." The Prince, in this speech, alluded to the peace which England had been forced into with America and its allies; and the Duchess, remembering who sat at her right hand, without a moment's hesitation, rejoined, "And, Sir, pardon me in return, —I think England, having had the magnanimity to defend herself against four such powerful and per-

severing assailants, and having had the means of making such an honourable peace, betokens that the honour of Great Britain was never more free from tarnish than at this moment." A murmur of applause went through the company, in which the Duke of Orleans joined as well as the rest.

The illustrious parties which the Duchess of Gordon was in the habit of entertaining were not always, however, parties of pleasure and gaiety. The members of the administration, then under the guidance of Mr. Pitt, not unfrequently met around our table ; affording me delightful opportunities of transiently peeping behind the scenes of government. These parties were always individually invited by Mr. Pitt himself ; we only knew the number, not the names of the personages expected.

I remember on one occasion when we were expecting the Prime Minister and his colleagues to supper, that her Grace, beginning to feel impatient, as it grew late, requested me to send to the House of Commons and try to ascertain by some means if the house was likely to break up soon. The messenger brought word that Mr. Dundas was upon his legs, but nothing farther could be learnt. When they came, the Duchess, in expressing her apprehension that the supper was spoiled, asked Mr. Dundas " What in the name of wonder induced him to make a speech that night ?" adding that " she had sent her compliments to Mr. Fox, requesting him, as a favour, not to make a long speech." Mr. Pitt laughed heartily, and remarked with sin-

gular liberality, “Mr. Fox has not obeyed your Grace, he has made a long speech, *and decidedly the best which I ever heard within the walls of Parliament.*”

As I had always, on these occasions, to be in immediate attendance on Her Grace, I had ample opportunities of witnessing, sometimes the most grave and weighty discourse ; and at other times the most light, witty, and amusing repartee. I was often astonished, especially when Mr. Pitt was present, out of what trifles they could spin a whole web of pleasing conversation. On one occasion, when on a visit at Mr. Harry Dundas’s, then Secretary of State, afterwards Lord Melville, our Duchess, as I remember, and Mr. Dundas with some others, were seated in a room, into which the moon shone brightly, during the dusk of the evening. Her Grace made a passing remark, “How beautifully the moon shone behind the window.” “No, your Grace,” replied Mr. D., “the moon does not shine behind the window—it shines before the window.” Her Grace was as tenacious in defending her assertion as Mr. Harry was in maintaining his amendment ; and, as neither party were disposed to yield, they actually reserved the point in dispute for the deliberation, next day, of the whole congregated Administration of George the Third : and for a full hour the Secretary of State, as well as Mr. Pitt, Lord Thurlow, (who was the Lord Chancellor) Mr. Wilberforce, (then a young man) the Marquis of Aberdeen, and a number more

almost equally distinguished, were employed in the most lively and humourous manner to decide the question.

Sometimes the discourse would take a political turn ; and whenever news of a victory over the Americans had been recently received, or any similar event had taken place, the Duchess (who was a great politician) was sure to give Mr. Pitt an Administration dinner. When our Government had dispatched a fleet with sealed orders, and conjecture was divided whether its destination was Holland or America, I remember her Grace actually asking Mr. Pitt the direct question. Of course, she did not expect a direct answer. The reply was, “Really, your Grace, I have not read the newspapers.” The Duke of Bedford, it is well known, had been, as his nephew is at present, one of the most influential leaders of the Whig party. His Grace had been disgusted at the line of policy pursued by the men in power, and having retired, in a great measure, from public life, was employing himself in improving the breeds of sheep and horned cattle in the country. While the Duke was in this humour, I heard our Duchess one day, while dining with his Grace at Wobourn Abbey, remonstrate with him, and even blame him that he did not join in with and endeavour to guide the young and talented Mr. Pitt. The Duke’s answer was rather uncandid. “If,” said he, “your Grace can point me out *one* good thing which Mr. Pitt has done for the nation, I will consent.” The Duke, it is well known, was an honest, talented, and

patriotic Nobleman. Indeed, had other proofs of these qualities in his Grace been wanting, the above circumstance of the Duchess's application to him on behalf of the Ministry, was a sufficient compliment to his political abilities and consequence ; for none could better judge than the Duchess of Gordon.

I shall tell no news when I assert, that the Duchess of Gordon, by her extraordinary personal attractions, her high mental qualifications, and her splendid entertainments, acquired no small influence over the administration of Mr. Pitt. I recollect in the affair of the Regency question, which it is well known occupied an important part of the parliamentary debates of the session of 1788, she not only canvassed her friends in the most active manner for votes on the side of Ministers, but actually, on the morning after the voting took place, hastened to the residences of a certain nobleman before his lordship was out of bed, purposely to upbraid him for his disloyalty and abandonment of his friends. Indeed her influence was so well known, and her zeal so effectual, that to my certain knowledge, on the King's subsequent recovery, she received his Majesty's *personal thanks*.

Her Grace, as well as being an important personage in the political world, was also a great leader of the fashionable circles, as my readers shall be informed. The Duke of Gordon had recently, in a time of public excitement, himself raised a regiment of Highland Fencibles ; soon after this circumstance, the Marquis of Huntley, the Duke's

eldest son, had to be presented at Court, as is common among the nobility when they come of a proper age. In reference to this military character of the Duke the young Marquis was presented in the full Highland costume, with tartan kilt, bonnet, &c. After the presentation, the Duchess was so pleased with the pattern of the plaid which her son had worn on the occasion, that she sent a specimen of it right away to China to get a quantity of it wove in silk by the Chinese. In time her Grace's order was fulfilled, and the silk tartan was received by her Grace while in London.

A day or two after the latter circumstance, the Duchess of Cumberland called at our house, as she frequently did during the former part of the day. Our Duchess told her of having received her order from China, and at the same time informed her Royal Highness that it was her intention to appear in a tartan dress at the Queen's Drawing Room. The Duchess of Cumberland made answer, rather coolly, as I well remember, "It may do for yourself, Duchess, very well, but it would not do for me."

The Duchess of Gordon, however, thought that it would do for herself and others too, for she went directly to Spitalfield, and ordered a large quantity to be woven. She appeared in it at the Drawing Room, as she had resolved; and as her personal appearance was extraordinary fine, and calculated to show any dress to advantage, and her example was highly influential, silk tartan, actually, in a few days, became the rage of all the fashionable ladies about the town, even including the

Duchess of Cumberland. Nor of the ladies only, all gentlemen's waistcoats being presently made of the same material. So much was this silk tartan in request, that the weavers, for a considerable time, could do no such thing as finish a piece before it was hurried away ; but they had constantly to cut it out of the looms by piecemeal to supply present demands. In the end, scarce a respectable female but wore a tartan waist to her gown at least, and there was hardly a waiter at any inn in London, but appeared in his tartan waistcoat. At last the tartan influenza reached even Paris, and the Duchess had the gratification of knowing that she was the leader of fashion both for London and the French metropolises.

It may not be unsatisfactory to such as admire splendid talents, like those displayed by Mr. Pitt, to have an instance given how his great mind could amuse itself by jocularity. As I was one day passing through the rooms after my accustomed avocations, I met with Mr. Pitt and Lady Charlotte Gordon conversing together in the drawing room. Lady Charlotte, having some order to give me, commenced as usual, "Mr. D'Amour"— Mr. Pitt purposely interrupting her speech by taking the sentence from her lips, added, "you are desired to bring one of the Shetland ponys up stairs immediately." I smiled and bowed acquiescence, but stood a moment or two to give the lady time to finish what she intended to have said. What Mr. Pitt had proposed, however, in jest, she determined to surprise him with in earnest, and while they were

mutually laughing, she stepped towards me, and in a low tone of voice, bade me do as he had said. I hastened down stairs, being always well pleased to fulfil a good-humoured command, sought the groom, got the pony saddled, and had him led up stairs ; the easy ascent of which he mounted very gracefully. When I opened the door and announced the arrival, (and surely it was the first announcement of the kind ever made,) Mr. Pitt's powerful voice, exercised in abundant laughter, resounded through a great part of the mansion. After parading the pony round, the Prime Minister, to finish the joke, tied a white handkerchief to the bit of the bridle, and led him down stairs with his own hand : not, however, till the animal had deposited upon the floor of the drawing room an indubitable proof of his having made himself quite at home.

. As I went into the Duke of Gordon's family when several of the children were young, and was much in their company, none will wonder that they behaved towards me with a great degree of affability, and that I was allowed to be familiar in return, Lady Susan, afterwards Duchess of Manchester, was nine or ten years old when I went amongst them, and twenty or twenty-two when I left. She was one of the most vivacious and kind-hearted girls I ever knew. As specimens of her good nature, I may mention a circumstance or two. She said to me one day, " Mr. D'Amour, I am going into the country, and what do you think I am going for ? " " I cannot guess," I replied. " Well," added she, " but I am going for the purpose of drinking ass's

milk." "Well," I replied, "I believe asses have a great character for stupidity. I hope the milk will produce a happy medium." In a few weeks, when she returned, she did not forget to tell me, "that she was sorry the ass's milk had made no change in her disposition accordant with my desire."

One day she rung the bell, and directed me to give orders for coffee. While I was myself waiting upon her with the same, the Duchess said to her, "Susan, my dear, I am going to Tottenham Court Road ; if you choose, I will bring you some birds." As I was standing near the young lady, and her Grace was at a further distance, I immediately, with my face from where the Duchess was sat, whispered "A monkey." Lady Susan took the word, and speaking aloud, said, "A monkey, if you please, Mamma."—"A monkey!" echoed her Grace, "and what in the name of wonder, would you do with a monkey?" This, of course, passed away as mere pleasantry ; but, in a very few days after, as Lady Susan was walking in the Park, she observed a boy with one of these identical animals huddled under his arm. She dispatched her footman to ask its price. "Two guineas," was the reply ; and he was ordered to take it to St. James' Square, and I was ordered to pay for it.

Pug proved, like the rest of his family relations, a funny fellow ; his domicile was the kitchen, where he amused the cooks and others amazingly. His end was tragical, for he happened to hang himself in a cord one morning before any body was stirring. The cord was suspended from the upper part of the

room, and he had been in the habit of running up and down it for amusement ; so that, I believe, his case was not *felo de se*, but purely accidental.

It happened that in a few days after the above accident, the Spanish Ambassador gave an entertainment on occasion of King George the Third's recovery from illness. His Excellency had provided a great number of valuable articles and trinkets, and thrown them together to form a kind of lottery, to be drawn for by a great number of his young guests. Lady Susan was one of the company. A day or two after, as she was relating to the Duke and her Grace, after dinner, some of the circumstances of the entertainment, and particularly of the lottery, the Duchess desired to see her prize, which was an elegant pocket book. Taking it into her hands, and turning over the leaves, she found already entered in the young lady's hand-writing an account of all her debts. She read all the items ; such as "one shilling to William, to give to a poor man."—"So much to such a one, for so and so ;" until she came to the last line, when, turning towards me, she exclaimed, "Two guineas to Mr. D'Amour ; how is this ?"—"Please your Grace," I said, "it is for the monkey." "It is for the monkey," added Lady Susan at the same moment. "Two guineas in debt for a monkey!" exclaimed the Duke, "but the monkey is dead ; well, Mr. D'Amour must take the skin." A hearty laugh went round the company. The Duke was highly pleased with his daughter's dexterity in book-keeping, and, as a

reward, handed her ten guineas to pay off all her debts.

The particulars which I have related will, I think, give my readers a pretty fair specimen of the way in which we spent our time year after year, when in London. It is true, with regard to my individual circumstances, I possessed many advantages, and had many little adventures which I do not think would be worth inserting among those more important concerns relating to the public characters of the day. Besides my being brought into contact with the upper circles of society through my immediate attendance on the Duchess of Gordon, there were other ways no less interesting to myself, as, for instance, by the messages I was sometimes employed to convey from her Grace to personages of the highest quality. Not unfrequently, also, when her Grace has been indisposed, or in any other way hindered from attending the opera, the privilege has been given to me in her stead ; and I was thus, as it were, enabled to move among them almost above the character of a mere servant.

Considering my early propensity to singing and dancing, and taking into account the part which I played on my first coming to Gordon Castle, my readers will not be surprised to be told that the opportunities which I now possessed were not lost upon me. In fact, I believe, in the end, I acquired a very respectable degree of accomplishment in both these sciences. As a proof of it, when we had any thing extraordinary, either at our house in

London, but more especially at Gordon Castle, I was requested by the Duke or the Duchess to perform before the company.

The life which we lived when in the country, also, was far from the character of monotonous dullness. I remember at one time, when we were at Gordon Castle, the Duke and Duchess were expecting a visit from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Dundas. Her Grace, with her retinue, among whom on this occasion I was one, rode ten or twenty miles to meet him. The meeting took place at a certain inn ; and, with rather singular coincidence ; just as her Grace and Mr. Dundas were saluting each other, in came a King's messenger with dispatches, summoning Mr. Dundas to repair to London with all speed. The Duchess was sadly chagrined at the untoward circumstance ; but pleasantly pretending to suspect duplicity, demanded to see the dispatches herself. A deal of good humoured raillery passed between the parties, which ended in the Duchess being shewn the dispatch, which had been sent by Mr. Pitt. I heard the purport of it from the Duchess's own lips directly after, which was to the effect, "that the treaty of commerce was about being finally settled between England and France, and that Mr. Dundas must of course repair to London." Mr. Pitt, in the dispatch, expressed his regret at being thus obliged to prevent, for a time, the enjoyment the parties were mutually expecting at Gordon Castle ; but he promised Mr. D. that he would work with him night and day to enable him to accelerate his return to the north. I

wondered, I recollect, what the newspapers would say of the affair, not doubting, but, as usual, they would know all about it. On ascertaining, I found, as I had found many times before, in these cases, that they were as far from the truth as the east from the west.

CHAP. XIV.

My own Courtship.—Obstacles in Love.—Final Triumph.

“Unerring Cupid aim'd a dart;
The fatal arrow pierced my heart.”—LOVER’S LEAP.

I HAD been in the service of the Duchess of Gordon not less than five years, and had been very happy in my situation, and had moreover the satisfaction of knowing that her Grace, as well as the Duke, were pleased with my services. It was about this time that I began to think in earnest about matrimony: and, true to my sentiments, delivered in my advice to my old Master M'L——. I did not, as many do, look out for a partner in the ranks above me; but rather cast my eye downward. In fact, a female servant, in a somewhat low situation in our establishment, and whose name was Alice, had, according to my ideas, all the qualifications for forming such a partner for life as I had ever wished to possess. With this young woman I formed an acquaintance in the following manner: —Having considered the point well, and fully made up my own mind on the subject, I spoke to her one day when we were in a room by ourselves,

—asking her if she would favour me with her company in an evening walk at a certain hour, and at a place which I named.—Her reply was, “No, Sir, I won’t, I am a poor girl and have no wish to be made a fool of.”

This answer, so natural to be given by a virtuous female, in these circumstances, to one so much above her as I then was, pleased me well. I hastened however to remove her suspicions. “I wish,” I said, “to have a little conversation with you, and I protest my designs are honourable ; and you will oblige me much by acceding to my request.” When she thus saw me in earnest, she acquiesced.

I added, “ You know the time when about I serve the Duchess with coffee, and as that is a time when you, yourself, can be at liberty, I will play upon my flute as a signal, and we will then walk out from Hyde Park corner towards the serpentine river,—we will meet by the Hop-poles.”

As I issued forth in the evening my recollections of Shakspeare were appropriate :—

“ The sun begins to gild the western sky :
And now it is about the very hour
That Silvia, at Patrick’s cell, should meet me.
She will not fail ; for lovers break not hours,
Unless it be to come before their time ;
So much they spur their expectations.”

We met accordingly, and I opened my mind without reserve. Although she was at first shy and afraid, her apprehensions gave way before my frankness, and I soon entertained hopes that what-

ever obstacles existed at present would eventually be made to give way. She confessed to me that she already had a suitor, whom she recollects me to have seen taking tea with her in the kitchen : but that she had not given him any encouragement, as she thought him mean-spirited. I desired her, if she could think well of me, to dismiss him. We had several interviews, during one of which I further told her that though I did not think it would be well for me immediately to marry, yet that I thought so well of her, and had so fully made up my mind, that I would give her a writing which should secure her the payment of £100 in case I forfeited my engagement, or failed to marry her at the end of twelve months, or the next time I came with the Duchess from Gordon Castle to London."

To this she replied, "that she had not £100 to oppose as a guarantee against mine, but that she fully appreciated my motives ; that she could raise £30, and with my leave she would make a deposit of that sum." I told her, "there was no need, that that was not my object." Moreover, I added "you are younger than I,—you are at a distance from your friends, and in a menial situation—to remove, therefore, the least doubt, and to set your mind at rest while I am away from you, we will, if you please take into our confidence Mr. Kemp, the cook ; he being an elderly man, and having a family of his own, and a person in whom we can both confide, he, and he only, shall be privy to our agreement, and he shall act as your father."

To these proposals she did not attempt any ob-

jection. I took the first opportunity of apprising Mr. Kemp of what had passed, and as the family was on the eve of setting off for the north, when I should have to leave her behind me, I appointed an early opportunity of all three taking tea together, where, free from interruption, we could finally settle the agreement.

Good Mr. Kemp highly approved of my choice, and of the manner in which I had made the proposal : he took the girl's part with the utmost alacrity, and I believe I may say that the work of that hour, was not only satisfactory at the time to all present, but was ever after, at least to two of us, a theme of happy recollections.

Fate, which had intercepted the lover's anticipated bliss in thousands of instances before we came into existence, did not immediately smile on ours. The winter following, the Duchess of Gordon being in a way of increasing the family, remained in the north, and, of course, I had to remain there also ; so that, instead of marrying in twelve months, according to agreement, we were near two years ere we again saw each other.

For the better carrying on of our courtship with secrecy, as well as to avoid the awkward appearance of myself, a Duchess's valet, courting the kitchen girl, I had advised that she should remove from her present situation, and get into another family. She fully saw the propriety of this idea, and acted accordingly. We appointed an agent to receive the letters which I should write to her, and although by the circuitous route which the mails then took

in journeying from London to the North-west of Scotland, each letter traversed scarcely less than 600 miles of road, yet we wrote to each other, under frank, every week. This gave us opportunity of knowing each other's minds fully, and as to the breach of the letter of our voluntary agreement, she fully saw the propriety and necessity of it, and advised me by all means not to be in a hurry, as present delay, she felt assured, would make our future union more happy.

During our separation, however, my love was not without being put to a severe trial, which I will now proceed to explain. During the former years in which I had accompanied this noble family to their northern residence, I had made an acquaintance with a Roman Catholic Priest, who lived at a short distance from Gordon Castle. This priest had a sister, a young lady, possessed of not a few amiable qualities. Of course, this was before I had looked with an affectionate attention towards Alice or even before I knew the latter. The sister of the priest, as I have said, was an amiable young woman, and I own that on our first acquaintance I had regarded her not without partiality, at least; neither will I deny but that I had visited the house oftener on her account. In fact, if I must confess the whole truth, I had expressed, in her ear, a wish that I had been placed in circumstances to marry, *for her sake*. The lady so far encouraged my addresses as to say "that she was in no hurry," &c. The priest, however, having in view for his sister, as he imagined, a better match, thought proper to dis-

courage my addresses. This was disagreeable to me. It happened too, that in one of my interviews with Miss ——, she rather uncivilly expressed some doubts of my sincerity of intention. My love was not of a nature to go through fire and water, and, therefore, taking into consideration also the conduct of her brother, I coolly set her at liberty from all engagements.

It happened that the speculation which my friend the priest had in view for his sister, did not succeed. When, therefore, during the season in question, we had been at Gordon Castle several weeks, and while I was in regular but secret correspondence with Alice, I received a letter, directed in the hand-writing of my quondam sweetheart. The letter itself expressed surprise that I had been so long in the neighbourhood without paying her a visit, and intimating in delicate but not unintelligible language,—in such language, in short, as women are best acquainted with, that a renewal of our courtship would not be disagreeable.

Upon this, I did not long delay paying the family a visit ; and, being favoured with a private interview with the lady, I frankly told her that all idea of any thing further than mere friendship betwixt herself and me must be dismissed from both our minds ; that, in fact, *I was now engaged*.

The matter, notwithstanding, did not end here ; for the priest, ignorant of the denial I had given to his sister, and imagining, no doubt, that I should be glad to receive her on any terms, and at any time, actually, in one of his visits at Gordon Castle,

went so far as to name the subject of my attachment to his sister, to the Duke, and to ask his Grace's opinion and advice! His Grace was pleased to express his thorough approbation, and to say that he always meant to befriend me ; but in case of the union taking place, he would take care that I was *well* provided for.

The priest, as I have said, had consulted the Duke without the knowledge either of myself or his sister ; and in utter ignorance of my avowed abandonment of the latter. As he had promised the Duke that he would have an interview with me upon the subject without delay, and as his Grace had been pleased to manifest some interest in the affair, and had desired him to let him know the result, he was not long in bringing the subject forward. As soon as he had told me all about it, I confess that I felt for a moment a little triumphant pleasure in the idea that now was my turn to be uppermost. I asked him if his sister had not informed him that the affair was at an end. "No," answered the wonder-stricken priest, "not by any means." "Well Sir," said I, "but so it is, and so it must be, for the truth is, I am now engaged to another."

Much was the chagrin which my friend felt at this untoward answer, and hard did he labour to persuade me what an advantageous match his sister would be for me. Unfortunately for him, he could not succeed in convincing me. I told him my present engagement could by no means be broken off ; that, especially in serious affairs like the pre-

sent, I was always a man of my word ; that I had formerly had a regard for his sister, and that it was chiefly on his account the connection had not been continued. I told him, moreover, that with regard to his having committed himself with our mutual patron, the Duke of Gordon, that was through no fault of mine, but that, to preserve my character, which I prized more than all other things, he must of necessity give the Duke a thorough explanation of all the circumstances. Difficult and mortifying as the task was, he had sufficient good sense and honourable feeling to be aware of its propriety ; and he promised to do what was right.

Two or three days passed after this without his visiting our house, and I took the opportunity of walking over to see the family, merely in a friendly way ; while there, I asked him "if he had told the Duke." He said, "he had not yet, but that he intended to do it." I did not wish to seem too anxious, and therefore, said no more for the present. Again several days passed, and I had reason to believe he had not seen his Grace. I, therefore, next waited upon him purposely to say, that "I thought he was neglecting a plain and important duty." I said, "You should remember that his Grace particularly desired that you should let him know the result immediately ; cannot you breakfast with the Duke to-morrow morning, which would give you an opportunity of saying all that is necessary ?" Eventually he did so, and I believe he told the Duke every particular very honestly. During the recital, his Grace, as I was informed, indulged in an ex-

clamation or two upon my honesty and abruptness ; and was pleased to say that " he could believe it all very readily, for it was sufficiently like me." His Grace, too, indulged in a little speculation as to " who it could be to whom I could be engaged, but conjectured it must be to some London lady, for I was always writing thither."

The time at last arrived for our return to London. I wrote beforehand to Alice, directing her to take a respectable lodging for herself, and at the same time, I gave directions to a mutual friend, to prepare for our wedding to be held at his house. By return of post, however, I received a letter from her containing queries as to whether we had not best let it be another year ; but proposing to talk the matter over more particularly when we should see each other. This, in the mean time, gave me a little leisure for consideration, and I really thought that the fruits of another year's industry, for I was then making a deal of money, would be of essential advantage to our future prosperity in life. Accordingly, at our very first interview, we both consented to wait till the following season should enrich us with its additional produce.

To make a long tale short, the year, like other years, gradually stole away ; and on my next coming to town, we set about marriage in real earnest. The last step, however, was not taken without little impediments. I had arranged that Alice should, by letter, which was to be delivered at our house in London, on the day of our arrival, inform me where and at what hour I should see her. It hap-

pened that the porter to whose care the said letter was intrusted, was tipsy, and forgot to deliver it. I wondered much that I did not hear from her, and was not a little uneasy. Next day about noon a girl came and delivered a note into my own hand. It was from Alice, and its purport was to inform me "that she had been waiting ever since the previous day, and was much surprised neither to have seen me nor to have received any message." As the girl had put the letter into my hand, she had told me that she was to wait for an answer. I had no sooner read it than I put on my hat, saying, "I would deliver the answer myself." Of course when I saw her, the explanation was soon both given and received; as we were both equally well pleased to be set at liberty.

We soon appointed a day on which to hold our wedding; but here again we were rather unfortunate; for, in spite of our arrangement, on the evening previous to the day we had chosen, we had company at the Duke's, to the number of not less than 600! Among others we had the Duke of Cumberland, his Majesty's brother; also, the Ministers of State, and, in short, the whole Court, as it were of George the Third. Our friend, at whose house we were going to hold the wedding, called upon me late in the evening to inform me that they should expect me to breakfast at eight o'clock. I told him that I would take care to be there by that time.

As it was late in the morning before our company had all left, when I had gone through the

house to see that all was safe, I retired to my own room, took off my clothes, and, being afraid of sleeping beyond my time, I put on my morning dress, and lay down ; merely taking the precaution to loose my knee-garters. Notwithstanding these precautions, what was my astonishment and alarm, when I was woke in the morning by the chamber-maid coming into my room to perform her usual duties ! I eagerly inquired the time ;—it was ten o'clock ! Hastily taking off my clothes and putting on my better ones, I took to my heels, buttoning and fastening various portions of my dress as I ran along. In the hurry of changing my garments, I had forgot some most essential articles, as my readers will presently learn.

I had not far to run, as all who are acquainted with London will be aware, when I inform them that the Duke of Gordon's residence was at that time in Pall Mall, and the place to where I had to go, was behind the Opera House, in Haymarket Street. As I went, I met my friend coming to seek me, for, as may well be imagined, they were in no little alarm at my absence. While one of us ran to fetch the company, the other engaged a hackney coach, and as we were all presently seated inside, away we drove.

As soon as I had made the best apology I could, our friend, perhaps judging that, as I had made one mistake, I was capable of making another, asked me if I had provided a ring ? “ No,” said I, “ I have not ;” and, another thought at the same time striking me, I clapped my hands against my waist-

coat pockets, exclaiming, "neither have I got a farthing of money!" "As to the ring," said Alice, "I thought he would forget, and I therefore provided one: and as to the other matter, Sir," added she, "I have no objection, *for this purpose*, to lend you a guinea." When I had got through all these dilemmas in succession, my next encounter was with the parson, for on his putting the usual question, "Wilt thou have this woman to thy wedded wife?" I, who was fated that day to fall into nothing but quandaries, boldly answered "Yes, Sir, I will!" "Hold," said the clergyman, "not so fast, —say after me." When we had concluded, I paid the fees by throwing down my guinea. As I saw him preparing to give me my change, I told him not to mind it, but to keep the whole sum. "Begging your pardon," he answered, "that is a matter with which you have nothing to do, the change belongs to the lady." "And so it does," said I internally, "in a stricter sense than you are aware."

CHAP. XV.

MARRIAGE and settlement of a fellow-servant.—My own attempt at settlement for life.—Disappointment.—Colonel Lennox and Lady Charlotte Gordon.—The Colonel's disagreement with the Duke of York.—Anecdote of the Duchess of Cumberland.—Duel between Colonel Lennox and the Duke of York.—Duel between Colonel Lennox and Mr. Swift.—Awkward consequences.—Private marriage of Colonel Lennox and Lady Charlotte, at Gordon Castle.—Curious announcement of the marriage by the Marquess of Huntley.—Circumstances leading to my leaving the Duchess's service.—Settlement at Woodhall.

"Now Cupid's arrow flies, anon the dart
Of deadly Mars is levelld at the heart;
Next Bacchus takes the field; then, straight
Mild Pan descends to end the dire debate."

ANONYMOUS.

ABOUT the time that I yoked myself in Hymen's chain, her Grace's first footman got married also, and like many other young men, imprudently, not having made the necessary provision for what would probably follow. He advised with me; and I, pitying his condition, persuaded him to seek, without delay, a more profitable situation. I, at the

same time, proposed to intercede, if he chose, with the Duchess in his behalf, and get her to speak to Mr. Dundas, and, if possible, procure him some inferior situation under government. He gladly accepted my offer of intercession, and the Duchess not only spoke to Mr. Dundas, but also to her uncle, Lord Adam Gordon, then Governor of Edinburgh Castle. Mr. Dundas presently sent him to be storekeeper at Fort William, on the north coast of Scotland.

In a few days after the footman had left us, Lord Adam Gordon drove up to the door, and enquired for the Duchess; I, stepping up to the carriage, announced that her Grace was gone out. He then desired me to tell her Grace on her return, "that the office of storekeeper of Fort George was vacant, and that if it would suit her Grace's purpose, it might be had for one word speaking." The moment he uttered the words, I resolved to apply for it myself. Saying nothing, therefore, of the footman having got served, I merely made my obedience, and the carriage withdrew. I was now all at once full of the subject, and directly on her Grace's return, I took the opportunity of soliciting her upon it. I told her Grace, that "as she had been so kind as to speak in behalf of Thomas, I hoped she would do the same for me, and that it would greatly add to the many obligations under which I lay to her condescending kindness." She very patiently heard all my petition, and then, looking earnestly at me, she was pleased to say—"D'Amour, the situation would not be good enough for you; you must have a better; it would scarcely, man, find

you in buckles and buttons;* think no more about it, and I will take care you shall never leave me without being provided for." I had no reply to make, but bowing to her Grace, retired.

After this things passed on in their usual way, and when the season came we left London for the North. The year following, when we were in town, as I was employed one day in dressing the Duchess's hair, she said to me, "D'Amour, Mr. Steele is going to call upon us, he has a situation for you ; will you change your religion?"† "No, your Grace, I never will," was my immediate answer. "I thought as much," she replied, "and I fear that that will stand in the way of my serving you." Mr. Steele called the same afternoon ; and as it was my business to announce him, when I had done so, I stood a moment, expecting her Grace would name the subject ; she did so immediately, and I had the mortification to be told by Mr. Steele, "that upon those terms I was debarred from holding any office which it was in his power to procure." There was therefore no remedy for me but patience ; yet it afforded me no little comfort, that the Duchess had manifested evident and strong desire to serve me ; and these circumstances preventing, were no fault of her Grace.

Although most of the following circumstances,

* In allusion to my well-known extravagance in these trifling articles.

† Mr. Steele was Mr Pitt's Secretary, and my religion has ever been that in which I was brought up, a Roman Catholic.

which occurred while I was in the Duchess's establishment, were made matter of public news at the time, it may not be amiss to narrate what will have a proper connection with my own personal history.

Colonel Lennox, nephew and heir to the then Duke of Richmond, courted Lady Charlotte Gordon. It is well known that the Colonel was at this time connected with the Coldstream Regiment of Guards, whose superior officer was his Royal Highness the Duke of York. As I recollect, it was thought at the time that the Royal Duke was somewhat piqued at the manner of the Colonel's appointment, which had taken place without his being properly consulted. While the Duke was under the influence of this unfriendly feeling, he told Colonel Lennox one morning on parade, "that he had been given to understand that he (Col. Lennox) had allowed language to be used to him at the meeting of the Venus Club, which no gentleman ought to sit down with." The Colonel made no particular reply at the time, but, as soon as parade was over, he desired that an orderly room might be called; and, in presence of his brother officers, the Colonel respectfully inquired of the Duke "Who had told him that he had disgraced himself at the Venus Club?" The Duke declined telling him, when the Colonel, rather impatiently, exclaimed, "How hard it is to have to do with Princes!" His Royal Highness, in reply, bade the Colonel not to consider him as a Prince but merely as a Gentleman. The Colonel, thus relieved from a difficulty, and being greatly incensed, wrote to each member of

the club separately; and it appeared, (for the answers were all published afterwards) that not one of the individuals gave a direct answer to the querist, but contrived to make their replies evasive. The next step on the part of the Colonel was to challenge his Royal slanderer to a meeting on Wimbledon Common, near to the Gravel Pits.

I recollect very well the Colonel being at our house the evening before the meeting, and how perfectly easy he seemed on the occasion. No member of our family knew of the perilous situation in which he stood, and the young couple were actually to be married in a very few days. Next day, Colonel Lennox himself was the first to bring the news, for, with a view, no doubt, to prevent unnecessary alarm when the affair was over, he came direct to our house. The Duke of York, as all the world knows, had a narrow escape, the Colonel's ball passing so near his head as to cut off a lock of his hair. His Royal Highness, as is well known, fired into the air. So serious an affair was it expected to be for the Colonel, had the Duke fallen, that especial arrangements were made, both by land and water, for a speedy exit into France. Happily, however, these precautions were vain.

It was about twelve o'clock when the Colonel came in. I waited on him, I recollect, with a basin of soup, which caused me to be one of the earliest recipients of the intelligence, as well as giving me an opportunity of witnessing the bustle and alarm among the heads of the family.

During the afternoon, we had a visit from her

Royal Highness the Duchess of Cumberland, which caused me to be witness of a circumstance which was never made public; and which throws some light on the views which even ladies in high life take of points of honour. Her Royal Highness alighting from her carriage, and, entering the house in a hurry, and presenting herself at the door of the Duchess's room, scarcely gave me time to announce her, and by no means gave me time to retire, ere she exclaimed, with the greatest apparent glee, "Thank God, your Grace, it is now established that Princes can be called to account as well as other Gentlemen!"

About the third or fourth day after the above, the Lady Charlotte told me that she understood there was a letter published and addressed to the King, to be had of such a bookseller, and she desired me to send a servant for a copy immediately. This letter was written on the subject of the duel; its author was a gentleman of the name of Swift, and it contained some free remarks on the Lennox family which were calculated to throw dishonour on the Colonel.

During the same afternoon, Colonel Lennox calling as usual, I saw Lady Charlotte give the said letter into his hand, saying, "See, Colonel, what a curious letter I have got here." When he had read it, he asked leave to take it away with him.

Knowing these circumstances, as I did, I naturally surmised that another affair of honour was not at all unlikely to arise; and, as we had Mr. Pitt and several other members of the Administra-

tion that very evening to dinner, I learnt that my suspicions were but too well founded.

During dinner, I had a letter put into my hand by one of the inferior servants, directed to "Col. Lennox." This I delivered, of course. On his opening and reading it, I observed him to smile, and he handed it to Mr. Pitt, who also smiled in turn, and gave it forward to Lord Thurlow. Presently Colonel Phipps, who was one of the party, took me out of the room, and asked if he could write a letter in the Steward's room. I told him the Steward's room was occupied, but that I could accommodate him elsewhere, and I conducted him into the Porter's lodge. These to me were suspicious circumstances, and I could not but feel a little alarm ; however, I said nothing.

On the morning of the following day, the Captain of a coasting vessel who annually conveyed our goods and stores from London to Gordon Castle, happened to call upon me for certain orders. On his coming in, I asked him if there was any news stirring this morning ? He replied, he knew nothing, only, as he came along, he saw a gentleman alighting from his carriage, and holding his hand on his body, as if wounded, and he suspected there must have been a duel. I asked if he knew the gentleman's name ? He said he believed it was Swift.

It appeared that on the previous forenoon when the Colonel had met with Swift's letter as above related, he went direct to Swift's house. On meeting with him he produced the letter, and asked him if he

was the author? As Mr. Swift answered in the affirmative; the Colonel replied, "Then my name is Lennox, and I desire you will provide yourself with seconds, and meet me to-morrow morning at —." Swift had no alternative, and the Colonel left his presence directly. During the day, however, Swift wrote a letter to the Colonel to beg him not to insist upon a meeting, and to desire him to consider the vast disparity in the risk between the Colonel who was single, and had no one, comparatively, to care for, and himself, who had a wife and children. Although the supposition will bear hard on the characters of some of the individuals, I am bound to consider that it was this letter which I handed to the Colonel during the previous evening at dinner, and of course the one written by Colonel Phipps was in reply, and to insist on the meeting. Mr. Swift was wounded by the Colonel's ball entering the abdomen, it took a side way direction, and was left in the flesh.

By the above untoward affairs we were prevented setting off so soon as we otherwise should for Gordon Castle. For as it was privately arranged that the Colonel and Lady Charlotte were to be married immediately on our arrival there, it was a matter of great importance that Swift should be pronounced out of danger ere we started. The Colonel visited Swift every day until the surgeon declared him safe; at last he did so, and all parties were set at liberty.

Before we left London, as I learned afterwards, the Duchess of Gordon had sent orders to Gordon Castle, confidentially, concerning the marriage cere-

mony. It was arranged that the housekeeper should have a certain clergyman in attendance when we arrived. The ceremony took place in the Duchess's best dressing room. The Duke was not at home. Nobody in the house but the Duchess and two women servants, besides the immediate parties knew of the wedding, not even the Marquis of Huntly, Lady Charlotte's brother, till the third day after. The reason, I believe, was to avoid tedious parade. On the morning of the third day the Duchess informed her son, the Marquis of Huntly, of the event. As a great number of the neighbouring gentry, according to custom had assembled to welcome the arrival of the family into the North, the young Marquis was very desirous of being himself the instrument to announce the news. Accordingly after dinner was over, and the ladies had retired, the Marquis, archly addressing Colonel Lennox, said, "Colonel, allow us to drink Charlotte's health in style." "Stay," said the Colonel, "let us first get her Grace's leave." He directly left the room, and returning in a short time, announced to the young Marquis, that "the Duchess gave consent." "Then," said the Marquis, "let it be in bumpers."—"Nay," said the Colonel, "let us have bottles, and give me two!" So said so done, each gentleman had a bottle set before him, with the cork ready drawn, and Colonel Lennox two, as he had desired.

The Colonel then rose from his seat and gave, in a bold and unfaltering voice, "*Lady Charlotte Lennox!*" A burst of astonishment and applause was

the consequence. The servants in waiting directly communicated it to those without, and every part of the house literally rang with the news as it flew from room to room. I believe every man at the table drank his bottle of wine in due style, and the bridegroom his two. As the bottles were emptied they laid them on the table, each one with its neck to a common centre, and thus made the form of a star in honour of the ceremony, which remained till next day.

At several different times, while I was in the service of the Duchess of Gordon, the Duke had applied to her Grace to have me transferred over to him as his valet. This I did not by any means wish should be the case. However, after I had been married two years, as the Duke and Duchess were talking the subject over one evening, she was prevailed upon by the Duke to consent, and my old friend, the Butler, was dispatched immediately to sound me, as well as to inform me of the determination. I told the Butler to inform his Grace that "I accepted the situation, and that I thought myself highly honoured." Notwithstanding I added to the Butler, in confidence, that I could not but feel inwardly sorry at the alteration; for "as he well knew," I remarked, "my present situation was not only more lucrative, but also more pleasant and easy. That among other things which would be of moment to me, when we rode, as we had so frequently to do, from Scotland to London, and from London to the North, while I was in the Duchess's service I rode in a post chaise; whereas,

when I came into the service of the Duke, if his Grace had other company, I should have to ride post, which I should find very disagreeable."

Instead of the Butler delivering my message as I desired and expected, he told the Duke all that I had said. The consequence was, his Grace was offended, and never looked pleasantly on me again : neither could I reconcile him by all the arts I could use.

When I found things in this state, I gave notice of my intention to leave altogether. I also desired my wife to do the same, and to write to her mother, who lived at Woodhall, near Sheffield, and thereby, if possible, secure us a comfortable retreat.

The Duke being inexorable, I left accordingly ; and my wife and myself bade, as we thought, a final adieu to high life ; and as we turned our backs on splendid mansions, and Dukes, and Princes, we formed no bad picture of Milton's first human pair on their taking leave of the scenes of all their delights :—

" Some natural tears we dropt, but wiped them soon :
The world was all before us, where to choose
Our place of rest, and Providence our guide."

CHAP. XVI.

SETTLEMENT with Wife's Mother at Woodhall.—Resolve to be a Gentleman.—The way in which I spent my time.—Letter to old fellow servants at Gordon Castle.—Duchess reads the letter.—My uneasiness and ennui.—Resolve to enter into business.—My Wife's dream.—Interpretation thereof.—An eleven miles race.—Again enter the service of the Duchess of Gordon.

"Why, how now, Dromio? where runs't thou so fast?"
"Do you know me, Sir? Am I your man? Am I Dromio?"
COMEDY OF ERRORS.

WHEN we arrived at Woodhall I found my wife's mother, who was a widow, very nicely fixed in a neat, comfortable cottage, which, with a little expense and trouble, was capable of being made doubly so. The old woman was exceedingly glad to receive us, and we found ourselves happy in each other's society. As I had been in a state of servitude about eighteen years, I had saved a little money. In fact, I was at the time worth £600. We mutually agreed that I should not, for the present, turn my hand to any thing, but that after such a long period of serving others I was entitled for a time to serve myself exclusively.

The first thing we did was to provide a little extra furniture : and of provisions we laid in a most liberal store. We had a garden, attached to the cottage, which I intended to cultivate in its season. Each of these circumstances, my readers must observe, were very much in unison with my preconceived opinions of what would constitute a really happy life. For the first few weeks I spent my time exclusively at home, repairing, providing, and arranging. In short, I promised myself all the comforts which the readers of Robinson Crusoe may have imagined that hero to have enjoyed when in full possession of his isolated domain, without his peculiar and dreadful drawback of loneliness.

The advantages of rural life and occupation have been celebrated from time immemorial. The poets are all, from the Bard of Mantua to him of Olney, loud and long in their praises of country scenes and employments. And truly the portion of the country where it was my fortune to fix, was calculated to inspire sentiments of admiration if any thing could. The "sweet interchange of hill and dale" which there delightfully abounds, has its beauty much augmented by the neighbouring mansions belonging to several noble families of high distinction, and whose parks and pleasure grounds adorn the prospects from the various elevated grounds.

When I had got most of our little matters fixed, I took a trip over to the neighbouring town of Sheffield, which proved to be an excursion of important results ; for I had not only the pleasure derived from the short journey, but also that of seeing and en-

joying the company of some friends with whom I had already become acquainted, and I may add, of making new ones, who continue such to this day.

On my leaving the family of the Duke of Gordon, I had made a promise to one of the ladies' maids, that, after a few weeks had elapsed, I would let them know, by letter, where and how I had got fixed in the world. Accordingly when the proper time arrived, I wrote, and sent by post the following letter :—

“ DEAR M.—I write according to promise to inform you where I have got settled, and how we are leading our lives. You must know, then, that my wife and I are living with her Mother, at a village called Woodhall, about eleven miles from Sheffield. Our house stands near the road, and consists of four rooms. We ascend to bed every night by means of a ladder ; and I think I have become so accustomed to this way of ascending, and withal so pleased with it, that were I again to come to Gordon Castle, I should be in imminent danger, upon your splendid staircases, of breaking my neck. We have, attached to our cottage, a pretty little garden : I wish you could see it. I have already spent many days in rendering it more complete and pleasant than it was when we arrived. I have planted my cabbages and furnished it with several other necessary appendages, all of which I hope will be useful in their season. Within doors, if you saw us, you would say we were like bees, when the summer is over. We have laid up as much corn as will serve us a year. We have pro-

vided a famous stock of butter, and salt in abundance. Our coal heap is like a little mountain; so that if a snow was to fall between now and Christmas which should half cover our house, we have only to open our door and melt a portion of it, and we have all necessaries. We are in excellent health, but not in *spirits*, for we have neither brandy, rum, gin, nor whisky, and we are too far from your neighbours the smugglers:—(by the bye, if her Grace knew my wants, don't you think she would send me a keg of whisky?)—Stay, stay, we have a barrel of ale untapped, I beg your pardon M—, I will go and tap it this moment. * * *

* * * . * * * *
Now, then, I have tapped our ale-barrel, and here I have some of it foaming in a glass:—"Here's to ye, M—!"—But I must not forget to tell you that we have in our sty, two swine, and they are powerful ones: one is black, and the other is white. I have a mind this moment to go and saddle my black swine, and also to hang two swill tubs, one on each side, for the animal's refreshment upon the road, and away we will come to Gordon Castle. Nay, I even now imagine that I see myself coming at full speed down the hill where the castle first appears in sight. You have got a sight of me! you are all crowding to the door! I hear your loud laughter,—I am warm with your congratulations.

"But, M—, was I really to come to Gordon Castle, do you think her Grace would afford me entertainment, and a night's lodging?—And why not? we did not part on bad terms.—Oh! but I must

not forget to tell you how glad I was a few days ago to read in the papers, that Lady Charlotte Lennox had been delivered of a son at Dover Castle ! How pleased should I have been, could I have stood in some sly corner when the Duchess first received the news !—just when she was on the pinnacle of her glory, hearing the delightful intelligence that a grandson ! a future Duke of Richmond was born.* But I must conclude.—My love to all my old fellow-servants.

“ M. D’AMOUR.”

The Duchess, by some means, got to hear of the letter, and desired the maid to let her see it. Her Grace, as I was informed, was much amused by its contents. She read it at various times to the company ; and though she lent it the maid back again that all might hear it in the steward’s room, yet she desired it might be returned to her own possession.

But, as the poet says—

“ Pleasures are like poppies spread,
We seize the flower—the bloom is shed ;”

Although I felt thus comfortable for the first few weeks of my establishment at Woodhall ; and notwithstanding I made a parade of my means of content to my quondam friends at Gordon Castle, yet my gentleman’s life, after a while, grew sadly

* Lady Charlotte Lennox was the daughter of the Duchess of Gordon. She has been already several times mentioned in this narrative. The son to which she then gave birth is now the Duke of Richmond.

wearisome. Winter time came on, and when I could do nothing in the garden, it was exceedingly tiresome to have nothing better to do than to sit in the house, or lounge from place to place. For a considerable time I forbore saying any thing to my wife, for fear of making her uneasy; and when she afterwards found out my real state of mind, I discovered also, at the same time, that she had been exactly in the same predicament, and had avoided telling me for the same reason.

In this sort of monotonous way, with much difficulty, we got over a period of fourteen or fifteen months; but in all my life, I can truly say, I never felt so much regret at any one thing as I did at having set up gentleman. And, indeed, when I came to consider the subject, both at the time and afterwards, I did not wonder that this should have been the case; for I had utterly mistaken the meaning of the term. I had foolishly thought that a gentleman was a man with nothing to do.

I turned over many plans in my mind, in order to find out some way of getting rid of my ennui. This, experience convinced me, could only be done by my having some rational and active employment. And no other way appeared so feasible as that I should purchase a vessel and employ myself in conveying coals on the Chesterfield canal. At last, having considered the subject well over, my wife and I agreed that we would try the experiment. Accordingly I went over to Retford and ordered a boat to be built. In a short time the building of

the vessel was commenced, and I went once or twice over to see the work.

While we were forming our plans, however, fate was forming hers. One morning when we awoke from sleep, my wife told me she had had a very remarkable dream. I asked her if it was a good one? "Yes," she replied, "it is certainly a good one, and although I do not recollect the distinct particulars, I feel assured it bodes something good which will befall us; we shall again be happy." During the afternoon of the same day, I received a franked letter by post. Opening it, not without emotion, I found it was from the Duchess of Gordon, and its purport was to inform me that "the situation I had held in her Grace's service was again vacant, and ready for me if I chose to accept it!!" I was to send my answer by return of post.

As soon as I had read the letter, I gave it to my wife, saying, "here is your dream, read it." For myself, giving way to the excessive feeling caused in my mind by the joyous circumstances, I believe I had well-nigh suffered the balance of my understanding to be overthrown. I never, either before or since, experienced such an effect of extreme excitation. The joy became dreadful! As soon as I had recovered myself a little, I said, "Well, I'll go, and you shall go too, and you shall be town-house-keeper. Get me my lightest pair of shoes out directly, and hand me my nankeen small-clothes, they will be light, I must run all the way to Sheffield, I may be too late for the post."

Having dressed myself with all speed possible, I started, intending to write the answer to the Duchess when I got to Sheffield. The road I had to pass being very uneven, I ran down all the hills, and as much up the opposite side as possible. I believe many who saw me thought I was running a race ; and, in fact, so I was, and won it too, as was said of John Gilpin. When I arrived at Sheffield, I made directly for the house of my wife's brother, who lived in Cheney Row, where, procuring pen, ink, and paper, I wrote my reply to the Duchess.

Fearing lest the letter should fail, I wrote one also to the ladies' maid ; for I would not have had any disaster to have come across my path at that moment for all the world ; so anxious was I to leave off the life of a gentleman. In fact, I heartily prayed Almighty God that such a disaster might never again befall me.

CHAP. XVII.

I ARRIVE in London.—Interview with the Duchess.—Meeting with fellow-servants at Gordon Castle.—Black swine.—My wife becomes town housekeeper.—Cause of final separation from the Duchess's establishment.—Settlement at Retford.—Commence the coal trade.—My success.—Cause of my giving it up after following it seven years.—Removal to Sheffield.—Open an eating house.—Finally give up all business.—Concluding reflections on my history.

" 'Tis midnight, Charles,
Pary thee to bed."

HENRY VIII.

IN a few days I took coach for London. When I arrived at St. James's Square, the family were on the eve of departure for the north. The morning after my arrival, I was about to present myself to the Duchess; Lady Susan first saw me, and exclaimed, (her Grace being in an adjoining room) Mamma, Mr. D'Amour! The Duchess immediately came in, but I was so much affected, that I could not utter one word; and after repeated efforts, I was actually under the necessity of withdrawing, merely making my obedience to her Grace. The

next time I appeared before her I was little better ; standing, however, for a few moments, I rallied my spirits by a great effort, and managed to say,—“ I feel myself highly honoured, in being deemed worthy once again to wait upon your Grace.” Her Grace, I will take the liberty of saying, was not unmoved herself, and her answer was,—“ D'Amour, it seems now as though you had never been absent ; things appear just as they used to be !”

Most of the servants had already set off for Gordon Castle. We soon followed, and the morning after we got there they all crowded around me, with kind looks and hearty welcomes. One of the first questions I was asked was,—“ What have you done with your black swine ?” I was prepared for the question. I told them that I had brought its chap along with me in my trunk, and if they pleased to meet me in the steward's room at twelve o'clock, I would in the meantime provide beans from the garden, and it should be ready cooked, and they should all have the pleasure of partaking off it to lunch. All agreed most heartily to the proposal, and our good humoured meeting, to commemorate my black swine, passed off in excellent style.

We spent the season at the Castle much to my satisfaction ; but I do not recollect any circumstances particularly worthy of being recorded. When we were about to return to London, I wrote to my wife desiring her to meet me there, and take a lodging, which she did. As Gordon Castle is near the sea coast, many of our servants, with our plate,

&c., always went backwards and forwards by water. When the Duchess and her immediate attendants got to town, the vessel had not arrived ; neither did it come in for several days. I desired my wife to come into the kitchen, and take the place of cook till the official one arrived. She did so, and actually had the honour, during the short period, of cooking a supper for his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

The Duchess, on one of the days in question, asking her footman who had dressed dinner, was answered "Mrs. D'Amour." A few days after a messenger was sent from the Duchess to ask my wife if she was willing to come into her family, and if she would be town housekeeper ! Of course the offer was accepted, and thus, if my readers can receive it so, the words which were spoken by me at Woodhall, when I was so transported with the Duchess's letter, appeared not to have been the effect of common joyous phrenzy, but rather something like prescience.

As my account is already, perhaps, sufficiently long, I will not weary my reader's patience by particular details of my second servitude with the Duchess. And, in fact, the circumstances which took place, being of a similar nature to what passed before, such an attempt could not fail to be tedious. Suffice it to say, we spent two more years in the service of this noble family.

I am bound to confess that the Duke of Gordon never seemed entirely to forget the unpleasant circumstances of our former separation, which made things

rather unpleasant to me. Another thing was, we had brought a Mrs. Keats, a sister to my wife, into a situation of some distinction in the household ; and although she was an excellent servant, and behaved herself with great propriety, yet, prosperity being almost sure to cause envy, we were looked on rather with jealous eyes by several of our fellow-servants.

Things being in this unpleasant condition, and I seeing no way of curing them, I consulted with my wife, and we agreed, that upon the whole, we had best leave altogether. We considered that as our vessel was now finished, we should have something to turn our hands to, without again falling into the unhappy predicament of gentlefolks. When I told the Duchess our resolution, she kindly asked me if I would like to take a situation in another family ? I told her Grace in reply, that I should not ; "that after I had done serving her Grace, I should have no mind to serve any one else." And thus I finally left her Grace's service.

Should this account, by any possibility, fall into the hands of, and be read by, any of the noble personages whom I have taken the liberty of introducing into my account, although they cannot be expected, after the bustling and gay scenes of high life through which they have passed, to recollect every circumstance which I have here recorded, yet, I am sure the narrative will recall to mind some things by which they will recognize the legitimate nature of my history. Should I be mistaken, the recital of the following will be sufficient, at least, as

regards several of the Daughters of her whose memory I shall ever most profoundly revere.

On a certain occasion, the Duchess of Gordon being in the way of increasing her family, proceeded to Edinburgh, where she intended her accouchement to take place. She was, of course, accompanied by all the younger branches of her family. It happened, during this period, that the small pox broke out in Edinburgh, and became uncommonly virulent. To avoid the danger, it was arranged that the children, with their governors, should take up their residence, for a time, in a country situation near to Dalkeith. The temporary residence was a cottage belonging to Mr. Dundas. Her Grace, as I will venture to assert, had great confidence in my prudence and care; and she sent me along with them as a kind of provider and governor of the whole. Here I had the honour of superintending the whole delightful little colony, and of several times preparing dinner, in the best manner which our circumstances allowed, for her Grace herself, when she came over to see the children. One circumstance which occurred while we were there, will not be forgotten. Melville Castle was about to be re-built, and our Duchess was requested to lay the first stone, which she did. The cottage was within a mile of the place, and we were all allowed to be present. The little Lady Georgiana, now Duchess of Bedford, and mother-in-law to Lord John Russell, was then two years of age, and I carried her in my arms to see the ceremony! A great company of Freemasons attended, to whom I,

by her Grace's order, gave entertainment at our cottage.

To conclude the account of my connection with this noble family, I may say, that though during my sojourn in this world of chance I have no reason to complain of not having enjoyed my full share of the blessings of a good Providence, yet I consider the time I spent in their service as the "Golden Age," if I may so say, of my life. I believe, could I have been made acquainted before I left my father's house, with every situation in every family in the wide world to which I might reasonably aspire, I should have chosen the one which actually fell to my lot. I am now 87 years of age; a grey-headed old man; yet, through the goodness of God, my health is so good and my faculties so far are unimpaired, that, would my circumstances allow, nothing would please me better, before I am called hence, than to undertake a journey to London, or even further from home, to obtain an interview with any of the noble branches of the illustrious house which I was so long honoured to serve.

I believe it was in the year 1793 that we both finally left our situations and came and settled at Retford. I immediately took possession of my vessel, put on a blue smock frock; got a man as an assistant, and turned coal merchant; trading from Whittington and Norwood collieries to Retford. I soon, under the instruction of the man I had, acquired sufficient skill in the art of navigation; and that too, as my readers will be aware,

without the aid either of quadrant or compass. Experience itself taught me the art of trading.

Still possessing a disposition to make the best of circumstances as they occurred, I did not by any means find this kind of life an unhappy one ; and I frequently wished, as I was engaged in my rustic labour, with my blue smock and my smeared face, and my wife assisting me, that the Duchess of Gordon might accidentally have come by in her carriage to have had a sight of us.

Considering in my mind that my pecuniary circumstances were quite sufficient for the business in which I had embarked ; that the vessel in which I traded, and the coals with which she was regularly freighted, were each and all my own ; and that I had money in the bank besides, I felt as independent as any nobleman in the land. Besides which, I found a pleasure attending the prudent speculations with which I conducted a trade that was so entirely new to me. And I sometimes questioned, in my own mind, whether I was not now almost as happy as ever I was, even in the Prince of Wales's ball room.

I remained in the coal trade about seven years. The reason that I left it off was on account of some unpleasantness I had with some other traders. The particulars I need not mention ; it will suffice to say, that because I was at liberty in my circumstances, and some of them were unfortunately not so well off, I could carry on my business to better advantage. They being rather envious and selfish,

combined together to injure me with the proprietors of the canal. The proprietors themselves gave me their verdict ; but afterwards seeing it their interest to take the side of the many against the one, they rescinded what they had done. I immediately saw that it would not be prudent for me to attempt to contend with such a mass of power. I therefore consulted with my best friend, and we soon agreed to make an end of the whole, by selling our vessel, removing to Sheffield, and there opening an Eating House and Poulterers' Shop.

We put our plan into execution by removing to Sheffield on the very last day of the eighteenth century. The first house we occupied in our new line of business was No. 4, Market-street. We were its first tenants after it had been dreadfully shattered, and almost blown down by an accidental and fatal explosion of gunpowder, during the preparation of fireworks. As our coal business had answered very well, so for a while did this ; and, after a lapse of four years, we removed into the Hartshead, where we continued till the year 1826. As my wife had actually once had the honour of cooking for his Majesty King George IV., when Prince of Wales, and as I had myself been preferred to carve a plate of ham for the same illustrious personage, it often occurred to me during his reign, that had I been as fond of puffing as some people, I might with more propriety perhaps have exhibited upon a large sign board, " Matthias D'Amour, Grand Cook and Carver to his Majesty," &c. It is true, I got on very comfortably without such pompous

annunciation. Trade being much depressed after the panic of 1825, and myself and my wife both getting into years, we willingly retired from all kind of business.

I feel unwilling, finally to close this imperfect sketch of my long life, without again endeavouring to direct my reader's attention to what I deem a singular chain of Providential circumstances which have attended my earthly pilgrimage. I cannot by any means presume, that, as an individual creature of God, I have deserved that my welfare and happiness should more than others be the object of our common Father's gracious care and regard; yet, somehow or other, I have had, far more of worldly happiness than usually falls to the lot of man.

It is true, when I was young, although I was fond of mirth and enjoyment, I was seldom imprudent,—never intemperate. I came into the world with a good natural constitution, and, notwithstanding my time has much of it been spent in situations which might have allowed me many indulgences, I always forbore, and the temperance which I have observed, combined with my regular activity, have tended to preserve my outward frame from decay much beyond the period allotted to man. Neither, though I am 86 years of age, do I yet feel to be worn out. I can still enjoy the pleasures of friendly conversation, and of moderate eating and drinking. I still take a lively interest in the important affairs of this great and happy nation, of which all will now allow me to have become a rightful denizen, and I thank God, I can, nearly every morning of

my life, walk three miles for the sake of enjoying the consoling influence of the means of religion.—I committed my Dear Wife's remains to the tomb about fourteen months ago.

Notwithstanding my own degree of moderation and care when I was young, I am fully conscious that I owe the chief part of my success in life to incidents over which I could have no control. For instance, had not my elder Brother gone to Paris ; and had not, after his absence of nearly twenty years, one of my other Brothers gone over to see him, which was the cause of my going ; or, had not a barber's boy, (which was a very unlikely thing to have happened) told me in his master's shop, that a nobleman's son was going abroad, and that he wanted a valet to accompany him who could speak the French language : had none of these circumstances happened, or had any one of them been wanting, I, most likely, should have first been employed in some mechanical art in the town of Antwerp, and afterwards could not have failed to have been embroiled in one, or both of the revolutions to which my native city has been subject.

But it would be tedious and needless to enumerate all the singular and striking turns in my history : in fact it would be writing my life over again. As I have already remarked, my sojourn in the Isle of Skye administered more to the happiness of my future life, though in an indirect manner, than all besides which I have had to pass through. Since that time, no trials which I have had to endure, have seemed hard ; no privations have appeared

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worthy of being named. With regard to my present retired condition, I find it very different from my former retirement at Woodhall. I by no means suffer the same degree of ennui :—I am not thwarting the course of nature ; but am, in the way of Divine Providence, a retired old man ; awaiting the call of my Creator and Redeemer, while at the same time, I can confidently trust in his unbounded goodness and mercy for all which is to come.

A P P E N D I X.



A P P E N D I X.

I LITTLE thought when I resolved to publish this brief memoir of my life, that it would prove the means of my re-establishing a communication with Antwerp, and of re-opening in me the sluices of family affection. The protracted wars consequent on the French Revolution, had intercepted communication for such a length of time, that I had given up all thoughts of my family ; concluding that my Brothers, and Sisters, and all who had known me must be long since dead. A young gentleman, however, from Sheffield, who lately made a tour to Antwerp, for the benefit of his health, has kindly, while there, interested himself in the discovery of my family. The result has been, after a complete separation of full half a century from my Father's house, I have discovered that I have a Sister still living, and who is near 92 years of age ! And I have actually received a letter from two Grand-nieces, which, without apology, I give to my readers, as follows :—

“ Anvers, Sept. 22d, 1835.

“ DEAR GREAT UNCLE,

“ From the tokens which are arrived, we have learnt of the search you have made to discover

the remains of your family. We, better than any other persons can give you some information, being two Grandchildren of your Sister Maria Anne Regine D'Amour, (married to Jean Emmanuel de Tonghe, our Grandfather,) and who is a widow. This Sister is the only one of your family now living. Heaven has preserved her until this day, in order to discover that she has still a Brother, of whom she often speaks.

" It is now thirty years that we have provided for her subsistence ; we have taken to her all the necessaries her age requires. But since the last two years that her health has failed her, we have placed her as a boarder with the Society of Religious Sisters, where she receives all the care and attention possible. She was 91, the 24th May, 1835. She has remitted to us several letters, which she has religiously preserved, and which you wrote to your family in 1776, 1777, 1779, 1780, and 1785. We have also a register in which your Father inscribed the birth-days of his children, and in which we have seen that you were born the 14th of September, 1749. If you have not lost all taste for travelling, we pray you, dear Uncle, to come to Anvers, where you will see your dear Sister and become acquainted with your Great Nieces. If, on the contrary, you should desire to see some one of the family, one of us will make the voyage over. We shall wait with impatience for your answer, and we assure you of all our great joy in having found a relative whom we have heard much spoken of, without knowing him ; and without knowing whether or no he still existed.

" Receive assurance of all our respect,

" Your Great Nieces,

" MARIE GERTRUDE DE TONGHE, MADAME LANDREY,
" MARIE ANNE DE TONGHE, MADAME DROUARD."

" We inclose in this the last of your letters which you wrote in 1785.*

" The Son of your Sister, our revered Father, Jean Emmanuel de Tonghe, died 31st May, 1806 ; his wife Marie Jeanne Patronella de Pooter, our dear Mother, died the 28th of December, 1806. We two are the children left. Accept our respectful love."

Of course, I have lost no time in answering this affectionate and most welcome letter ; and am at present waiting, impatiently, either for their visit, or for a further communication. I scarcely know whether these new, and to me, important events, will not have the effect of turning me young again, for I am actually now engaged in recovering my lost capability of writing and speaking the French language, in order that I may be able to write frequently, in case I cannot see my relations, or to converse with them, if I have the happiness of their visiting me. The following is an English translation of my letter which I have sent in answer to theirs.

" Sheffield, October 3rd, 1835.

" MY DEAR NEICES,

" I have read your letter, which has acquainted me that my dear Sister, your Grandmother is yet alive : the joy that it has given me, is more than I can express. I thought I was the only

* I wrote this letter, I perceive, when I first arrived at Gordon Castle, and while I was waiting the return of her Grace, the Duchess. The date is June 3d, 1785.

one living of my Mother's children. It will rejoice my Sister, to hear that I am in as good health as ever I was in my life. All my friends and neighbours say I am a wonder, at my age. I eat, drink, and sleep exceedingly well. If there was not the sea to cross, I could walk the distance from Sheffield to Antwerp. It is not convenient for me, as I am situated, to come to see you ; however, in a short time, I shall be able to send you my portrait, which is acknowledged to be a good likeness. When my Sister shall see it, I think she will say that I am less altered than she would have expected. I consider it very providential that I came to England ; the kindness I have received is more than I can express. I married forty-six years ago. My wife, your Great-aunt, is now no more ; she died a year ago. Although we succeeded well during the former part of our time, we afterwards lost our money by such means as I may explain to you hereafter. We have never wanted, however, for when our money was gone, God Almighty sent friends who have supported us ; and though I had never less money than at present, I never was richer, because I have food and raiment, and am content ; I would not change my situation with the first Lord in the land. Should it please God to put it into the hearts of my dear Grand-neices to come to see me, as I cannot come to see them, I cannot express what delight it would be to my mind.

" Some of my acquaintances having frequently heard me give accounts of my travels, thought it worth while to publish an account of my life. The part which I have taken, has been, to give an account, from memory, to a particular friend, who has written it down from my lips. The book is coming out under the patronage of Mr. Montgomery, one

of the most distinguished of modern poets, and whose name, I am sure, will not be unknown, even at Antwerp. I do not forget, in my history, to relate an account of the jubilee of my Father's wedding.

"I much wish, when you answer this letter, you would let me know if the Count de Baillet is still alive ; if he be, let him know that I am alive and well. We have a Catholic chapel in this town, where I attend daily, and where I will never forget to pray for my dear relations, and I hope you do the same for me, that if we never meet again on earth, we may meet in heaven, to continue together to all eternity. This is the wish and prayer of your affectionate Uncle,

" MATTHIAS D'AMOUR."

As I have several times, in my narrative, mentioned testimonials which were given me by my various masters, and as they will be in a measure confirmatory of my history, I beg to present my readers with the following verbatim copies of original documents, which are still in my possession :—

The Count De Baillet's Testimonial.

Le Soussigné atteste à qui il appartiendra, que le nommé Jean Matthias D'Amour, Natif D'anvers, en Brabant, m'a servi avec toute la fidélité possible pendant l'espace d'un an : qu'il a toujours été fort sobre et fort réglé, n'aimant point à courir, exact à se trouver au logis, quand on avoit besoin de lui ; ayant d'ailleurs la qualité de coiffer très joliment, qualité essentielle à celle de valet de chambre, en laquelle il me servoit.

Le présent délivré, scellé de mes armes, afin que

foi y soit ajoutée, a l'academie de Caen, en Basse Normandie, ce 20 Octobre, 1775.

LE COMTE DE BAILLET DE LA TRAPPERIE.

TRANSLATION.

I, the undersigned, attest to whomever it may concern, that the said John Matthias D'Amour, native of Antwerp, in Brabant, has served me with all possible fidelity, during the space of a year; that he has always been very sober and very regular, exact in being at home when he was wanted, possessing also the qualification of dressing hair beautifully, an essential qualification in a valet-de-chambre, in which capacity he served me.

These presents are sealed with my arms, that they may be considered genuine, at the Academy of Caen, in Lower Normandy, 20th October, 1775.

LE COMTE DE BAILLET DE LA TRAPPERIE.

Mr. Campbell's Testimonial.

This is to certify that Jean Matthias D'Amour a native of Anvers, in Brabant, has served me with the utmost fidelity and honesty, during the space of a year and a half, and seems very well qualified for any gentleman that intends to travel.

Left me 12th of May, 1777.

JOHN CAMPBELL, 11th Dragoons.

Mr. Mackenzie's Testimonial.

The bearer, Matthias D'Amour was my servant for two years, in which time he accompanied me abroad, and behaved himself with sobriety, atten-

tion, and honesty. He dresses hair, speaks high and low Dutch, French, and Italian.—Signed by me,
JOHN MACKENZIE,

April 21st, London, 1779.

Major Warburton's Testimonial.

This is to certify, that Matthias D'Amour has lived with me for the space of two years, and has served me faithfully and honestly,

T. WARBURTON, Major,
Queen's Dragoons.

Mr. M'L——'s Testimonial.

This is to certify, that Matthias D'Amour, who served me for a year, is a fit servant for any gentleman,—he is a complete servant, without any exception.

JOHN M'L——.

Rassa, June, 1782.

ERRATA.

Some of my readers will be aware that I have committed an error in the commencement of my memoir, with regard to Reubens being born at Antwerp. He was not *born* there, but the street in which he formerly lived, and which still bears his name, was the one in which we also resided.

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